



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تلينز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Iraq angry over 'supergun' seizures

BAGHDAD (U) — Iraq Monday threatened legal action against Italy, Greece and Turkey for seizing steel components alleged to be part of a "supergun". The seizure, "taken by the Turkish, Greek and Italian authorities" is illegal because the steel materials belong to Iraq and their sale was made by Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency quoted a spokesman of the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation as saying. Turkey and Greece last month confiscated Iraq-bound truckloads of British-made steel pipes they suspected would form part of a gun barrel able to fire chemical or nuclear weapons. On Saturday, Italy impounded 90 tonnes of steel parts made by Italian firms also thought to be part of a gun. Britain, the first country to make the "supergun" allegations, has also impounded steel tubes. Baghdad says all the components are for a petrochemical project. Iraq "reserves its rights towards Turkey, Greece, Italy and Britain or any other country which takes illegal measures and... will take all legal measures against these countries," the spokesman said without giving details. He said Iraq had already filed a lawsuit against British authorities in Britain.

Mubarak begins Moscow visit

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Hosni Mubarak, the first Egyptian president to visit the Soviet Union in 18 years, arrived in Moscow Monday for talks on the Middle East with President Mikhail Gorbachev. The two leaders were expected to discuss the anger of Arab states over increased emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel as well as regional issues and bilateral trade. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, presidential adviser Yevgeny Primakov and other top officials welcomed Mubarak at Moscow's Vnukovo airport, the official TASS news agency reported. Vladimir Vinogradov, the Russian Federation's foreign minister, told TASS that Mubarak's visit completes the normalisation of Soviet-Egyptian relations and ends "the abnormal state of affairs that had existed for a certain period." The newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya said the visit by the Egyptian leader "turns a new page in Soviet-Egyptian relations, which have cleansed themselves of political ambitions and ideological stereotypes in recent years." Anwar Sadat, Mubarak's predecessor who was assassinated in 1981, was the last head of state to visit the Soviet Union.

Volume 15 Number 4390

AMMAN TUESDAY, MAY 15, SHAWWAL 19, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Ben Ali begins U.S. visit

TUNIS (R) — President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia left for his first official visit to the United States Monday with a mission to argue the Palestinian cause and promote the Arab Maghreb Union of which he is chairman. Ben Ali, who took power in November 1987, saw Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday and Arafat said Ben Ali was the man best qualified to brief U.S. President George Bush on the PLO's view of a Middle East peace. Tunisian emissaries have seen the heads of state of the four other Arab Maghreb Union member states — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco — in case they want Ben Ali to bring up their concerns in Washington.

Bhutto arrives Friday

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Indo-Pakistani dispute over Kashmir and the situation in Afghanistan as well as the Middle East conflict are expected to dominate talks between Jordanian leaders and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who arrives here Friday as part of a tour of eight Islamic countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

The threats posed to the Arab World by Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine will also figure high in the talks, according to Jordanian and Pakistani officials. Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Khan Afridi said Monday that Bhutto's discussions "will not be directed against any third party, including India." "The discussions should be seen in the context of consultations between Islamic countries in the umma," the ambassador told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview. "The consultations will focus on Kashmir and Pakistan and problems in the Middle East, including the colonisation of Arab lands by the new Jewish settlers," he added.

Bhutto's tour is seen as an effort to win diplomatic support for Pakistan in its dispute with India ahead of a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Cairo next month. The meeting, according to a foreign ministry spokesman in Islamabad, will have the Kashmir issue on the agenda. Bhutto leaves Pakistan today for Iran on the nine-day tour, which will include Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. She will also visit several other Islamic countries, including Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain, in early June, reports from Pakistan said.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday that the tour, billed as a "journey of peace," should not be "interpreted as a mobilisation for war... rather it should be seen as a strengthening of the quest for averting the danger of conflict in South Asia."

The simmering tension between India and Pakistan revolves around Indian charges that Islamabad arms and trains Muslim militants in India's Jammu and Kashmir state, where more than 300 people have been killed in a secessionist rebellion since January. India and Pakistan have fought two wars in the past over the disputed territory.

Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said in New Delhi Sunday that his government had taken measures to counter Pakistan's diplomatic offensive.

"We contacted many countries in this direction and the response has been tremendous," Singh was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India news agency.

He said several countries appreciated India's stand that the problem should be settled through dialogue as called for in the 1972 Simla pact between India and Pakistan following the last war between them.

Pakistan says the unrest in Kashmir is the result of India's refusal to allow a U.N.-mandated referendum in the disputed territory to decide the future of the area.

Jordan, which maintains close relations with both Asian countries, has advocated peaceful negotiations to settle the conflict. This position was reaffirmed during the recent visits to Jordan of high-level parliamentary delegations from India and Pakistan.



Scenes from Monday's 'Right of Return' March near the King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan (See inside pages for more photos). Photos by Youssef Al Alian

'Right of Return' March a success

Despite clashes, officials and organisers say 25,000-strong protest achieved its goals

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 25,000 Jordanian, Palestinian and Arab marchers Monday made a strong show of solidarity with the Palestinians in the occupied territories from a site only two kilometres away from the King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan.

Women and men thronged along the road to the bridge, emotionally bound in their goal to achieve the "right of return" for millions of Palestinians in the diaspora, in a march that was described as "successful" despite clashes between some of the marchers and police which resulted in 52 injuries, mostly of tear-gas inhalation.

Standing at the mid-point of the route, the line of marchers seemed too long to be seen in whole by the naked eye. As the line swayed closer to the bridge itself hundreds of men and women walked to the tunes of nationalistic songs and slogans promising Palestinians the liberation of their occupied homeland.

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King, Jawara attend military ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Gambian President Dawda Jawara Monday attended a graduation ceremony of Armed Forces officers specialised in security and protection of prominent personalities.

The King and the president heard a briefing on the training programmes and later watched shooting exercises involving stationary and mobile targets.

At the end of the exercises, the King and the Gambian president distributed awards and prizes to the graduates.

Jawara also met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the Al al Bait Foundation where the Gambian president was briefed by the Crown Prince on the foundation's objectives and aims.

The Crown Prince explained that the foundation was seeking to highlight a modern Islamic vision which would govern the society in a way that would enable it to meet the challenge of modern times.

He further highlighted the foundation's activities in developing Christian-Islamic dialogue through cooperation with organisations in England, Switzerland and the Vatican.

Jawara stressed the need to underline the importance of Islamic unity in a way which would spread the message of peace, especially at a time when all other ideologies are finding themselves unable to fulfil the needs of society.

The Crown Prince hosted a dinner Monday night in honour of the Gambian leader.

Israel may reopen Arab universities

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel said Monday it was considering allowing Palestinian universities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to reopen after keeping them closed for almost the entire 29 months of the Palestinian uprising.

A statement from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office said defence officials discussed with heads of the six universities in the occupied territories the possibility of opening a single university first as a test.

It did not say whether any decision had been taken. The statement followed mounting pressure from the United States and the European Community (EC) to move to studies to resume.

The move is likely to improve Israel's relation with the United States which has been strained in recent weeks over Shamir's stepped up settlement activity in the occupied lands and his refusal to accept U.S. Middle East peace proposals.

The army closed Palestinian institutions of higher learning shortly after the uprising erupted in December 1987, arguing they were hotbeds of anti-Israeli violence.

But the United States and Western Europe sharply criticised the measure as collective punishment, and the European Parliament at one stage recommended that scientific cooperation with Israel be frozen until the universities and colleges are reopened.

Shamir spokesman Avi Pazner said the prime minister instructed his adviser for the occupied lands, Shmuel Goren, to meet Monday with the heads of the six universities to discuss the gradual reopening.

Pazner said that "we will open the first one (university) in the next few days," but would not say which one. There are five universities in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip with a total of 18,000 students.

Also Monday, the army said troops sealed off three houses in the West Bank city of Nablus belonging to suspected members of the Black Panthers, a Palestinian group.

Palestinian reporters put the number of sealed houses at four. Throughout the Gaza Strip, shops were closed under orders of the Muslim fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad which demanded the immediate release of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a cleric captured by Israeli commandos in South Lebanon last year.

Obeid is a leader of Hizbollah, a pro-Iranian Shiite faction in Lebanon which is linked to groups holding 16 western hostages and three Israelis. Israel has said it would not make a hostage swap unless its soldiers are freed.

The former commander of the Israeli army in the West Bank told a military court that special army units had operated outside his command, according to an army radio report Monday.

Majors-General Amram Mitzna was testifying at the trial of Colonel Yehuda Meir, former commander of the Nablus district, who is accused of ordering soldiers to break the bones of Palestinian prisoners in two West (Continued on page 5)

Commission on national charter adopts King speech

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Commission entrusted with drafting the national charter began regular meetings Monday following three mostly procedural sessions and decided to adopt His Majesty Hussein's speech to the commission as an official document of the panel.

The commission also decided to form a special committee entrusted with studying the legal, constitutional and political aspects of the proposed public referendum on the charter after it is drafted.

The participants discussed the political concepts and axes which could be included in the charter. Commission President Ahmad Obeidat outlined three main axes which could formulate the discussions: Political parties and organisations, economic and social issues and the issue of public freedoms and citizens' basic rights.

Participants presented their initial ideas for the charter and the policy of work to be adopted. The commission will meet next on Wednesday.

The decision to ban male hairdressers has sparked heated debate over the legal and constitutional legitimacy of the move. A legal precedent involving a case in Irbid contravenes such a measure.

Irbid police have already taken steps to enforce the regulation and gave hairdressers one week to get documentation from the ministry proving that the decision only applies to new applicants. A Security source said Monday that their enforcement steps had been stopped. "We have declared up some of the ambiguity in the regulation, which prompted the Irbid authorities to take these steps," the source said. This could not be confirmed independently.

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PLO confident Syria will attend summit

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A high-ranking Palestinian official said Monday he expected Syria to attend the Arab summit planned for Baghdad starting May 28 despite resistance by Damascus so far.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has accepted an invitation to the summit.

"INA has learned that Qadhafi welcomed the invitation and said he would be pleased to take part in the summit in Baghdad," it (Continued on page 5)

Gorbachev slams Latvia, Estonia

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday condemned Latvia and Estonia for their recent steps towards full independence from the Soviet Union and declared their decisions null and void.

Soviet Television read the text of two presidential decrees which said both republics had violated the Soviet constitution and a recent law on secession from the union.

Latvia declared itself an "independent democratic republic" May 4 but mapped out a transitional period to full sovereignty in an attempt to avoid provoking retaliatory action by the Kremlin.

It was the first time Gorbachev had officially responded to the Latvian decision. The Soviet leader has already condemned Estonia's announcement that it would follow its own "step-by-step" path to independence.

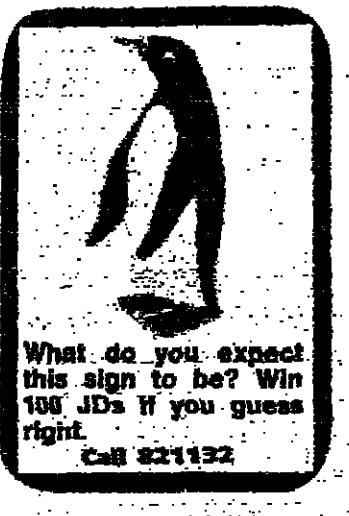
Gorbachev's decree declared the Latvian and Estonian actions "as having no juridical force from the moment of adoption."

Moscow is applying widespread economic sanctions against Lithuania to force it to back down on its March 11 declaration of full, immediate independence. Gorbachev singled out the Estonians for further criticism.

Referring to the republic's independence plan, he said: "I announce any action of state bodies and officers, as well as private persons, on the basis of this action as illegal."

The leaders of the three Baltic republics Sunday sent a telegram to Gorbachev urging the president to open joint talks on independence.

At an historic summit meeting Saturday the three republics agreed to coordinate their foreign and economic policies to present Moscow with a united negotiating front and offset a possible widening of the Kremlin's sanctions.



U.S., Iran sign \$105 million accord on financial claims

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The United States and Iran have signed a \$105 million settlement of some 3,000 financial claims stemming from the 1979 Islamic Revolution, a U.S. official here said Monday.

The settlement, which deals primarily with so-called "small claims" for under \$250,000, clears the way for the tribunal to deal with some \$16 billion in major claims whose resolution could open the way to re-establishing economic relations between the two nations, according to the American official here at the Iran-United States claims tribunal.

The small claims package dealt primarily with Americans who left behind personal possessions or were owed salaries by Iranian companies when they fled Iran during the revolution. They were settled for a total of \$50 million.

The settlement also provided \$55 million for repayment of a loan from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The settlement accord was signed late Sunday night or early Monday morning by Timothy Raminsh, U.S. agent to the tribunal, and Iranian agent Ali Nobari, according to the American official at the tribunal, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Settlement of the claims packages has drawn unaccustomed publicity to the tribunal here because the most recent settlement

ment agreement involving resolution of several other claims and counter-claims with a net payment of \$420,000 to Iran was not signed. There was no indication why.

The second package contained a joint claim that had been filed by Iran for personal property left behind by 107 Iranian naval cadets in training who were expelled by the United States after the 1979 embassy takeover.

Also in that package was an Iranian landlord's claim against the U.S. State Department for rent not paid on an apartment that had been occupied by an embassy hostage.

The biggest claim still before the tribunal, valued at up to \$11 billion by Iran, is for military equipment which Iran ordered but did not receive as a result of the embargo imposed by the U.S. government.

After the overthrow of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979, Iran cancelled contracts for \$9 billion worth of weaponry, including four destroyers under construction that were later taken over by the U.S. Navy.

Much of the material Iran is claiming compensation for is not under U.S. government control, but with individual contractors who were never paid.

The U.S. government claims it found buyers for much of the equipment already paid for by Iranian government, and deposited the money in Iran's accounts.

Beirut's courts struggle to survive

BEIRUT (AP) — Sometimes judges take pity on prisoners whose incarceration makes them unable to flee Beirut's daily shelling, and let them go on minimum bail. At other times, the shelling does that for them, blowing holes in prison walls that allow the inmates to escape.

During 15 years of civil war, the criminal justice system has tried to keep functioning. But the violence can overwhelm its attempts.

"I switched on the TV one night and saw gunmen sniping from my office at the Palace of Justice," said one judge, who like the rest spoke on condition of anonymity. "We obviously cannot meet there."

The intra-Christian fighting that has tormented Beirut for the last 101 days has trapped about 415 prisoners in a belt of some of the worst fighting.

The showdown between troops of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and militias of warlord Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces — the worst among Christians in the civil war — has killed almost 1,000 people and wounded more than 2,500 since it erupted on Jan. 30.

A lawyer who fled the fighting in the Christian enclave to predominantly Muslim west Beirut said the judiciary authorities have not been able to meet to consider dozens of cases of detainees who have been booked pending interrogation.

"They were arrested and jailed and now their fate depends on the situation," said the lawyer.

The Palace of Justice where the meetings normally take place lies on the confrontation line separating Geagea's areas of influence from Aoun-held terrain. It is under constant sniper fire and shelling.

"We have been trying to form a committee to meet anywhere in order to take a decision to release the prisoners on bail pending a trial when security conditions permit," the judge said.

The lawyer said some colleagues paid lightning visits to the Palace of Justice to put the files in safe hiding or take them to safer areas, he said. "But it is not possible to operate normally from there."

The judge said the jails lie in the most-targeted areas in Roumieh, Baabda and Fum Al Shubbak, all held by Aoun.

Roumieh is the biggest. Aoun's main Howitzer batteries are deployed around the prison in the wooded valley which protects them against Geagea's fire.

"The prisons are so crowded and in such dangerous areas that whenever we can meet we try to release most of the detainees who have committed minor offenses on bail set at a minimal amount," said the judge.

Few jails have bomb shelters and prisoner control is all but nonexistent during the shelling

Lahd supports swapping prisoners for hostages

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — The commander of Israel's proxy force in southern Lebanon says he is ready to swap a "large number" of the 300 prisoners held by his militia for 16 Western hostages held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite forces.

Gen. Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), also included in the trade three Israeli servicemen and several of his men held by Shi'ite factions.

"I'm not only prepared to facilitate such a package deal, but I also hope it could happen," Lahd said Sunday in an interview with the Associated Press at the SLA compound in Marjayoun.

Lahd, 61, a retired Lebanese army officer, commands the 3,000-strong militia that patrols Israel's self-proclaimed security zone in southern Lebanon. It is backed by about 1,000 Israeli troops.

In Israel, a senior government spokesman asked about Lahd's offer, said: "I don't think it depends on Lahd or on us but on the other side."

Asked if there was any sign of movement from the other side, the spokesman said on condition of anonymity, "none that I know of."

The SLA holds the 300 Shi'ites in Khiam, a small village in Israel's 10-15 kilometre wide security zone. The border zone was established in 1985 when

Israel ended a three-year occupation and withdrew the bulk of its army from southern Lebanon.

Most of the 16 Western hostages missing in Lebanon are held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite factions reportedly operating under the umbrella of the fundamentalist Hizbollah, or Party of God. The longest-held is Terry Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent for the AP. He was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

Two American hostages, Robert Pollitt and Frank Reed, were released by their pro-Iranian captors last month as a "goodwill gesture."

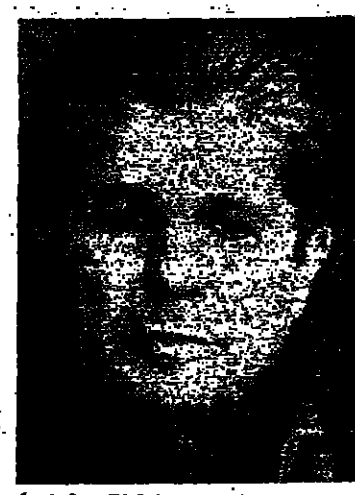
Since then, there have been contradictory statements from Iran on any further releases. U.S. President George Bush has refused to deal with freedom for the hostages, who include six Americans.

In addition, the Western hostages include Keenan, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss and an Italian.

There was no immediate reaction to Lahd's offer from the pro-Iranian factions holding hostages, from Lebanese clergymen or from Iran.

In the past, the kidnappers and their backers have called specifically for the release of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Hizbollah official captured by the Israelis in a raid on his village in southern Lebanon last July 28.

Iranian leaders hoping to im-



Antoine Lahd

prove ties with the West have said all hostages should be freed this year. But radicals argue that holding hostages is a means of confronting the West, which the anti-Western faction considers a cornerstone of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Bush recently said that if Israel wanted to free any prisoners he would not object. He also offered to help locate the four missing Iranians.

Two of the Israeli soldiers in question were captured in a commando ambush in the buffer zone on Feb. 17, 1986 and are believed held by Hizbollah. The third, an airman, was captured when his plane was shot down in southern

Lebanon on Oct. 16, 1985. In Beirut weeping Lebanese women protesters, photos of their men in Israeli jails pinned to their chests, said Monday they only wanted the 15 Western hostages in Lebanon freed if their relatives were also released.

At least 50 women, many old and shrouded in black chadors, marched to the United Nations building to plead for their relatives, hundreds of whom are held in Khiam Prison.

A solitary man the crowd said "why should Western hostages get out while our sons don't?"

The father of Bilal Dakrou, held for over four years in an Israeli prison, said "the West has dollars to pay off the captors. We, because we are poor, nobody cares."

"We have seen and heard how the world was moved and the West enraged about a few Westerners who were kidnapped in Lebanon," cried one black-clad woman, a mother who refused to give her name.

"But unfortunately, we have not seen or heard the least interest in our 3,000 sons held hostage in Zionist prisons," she said.

Aliya, 60, said four of her sons aged between 35 and 13 years were kidnapped by SLA militia-men eight years ago in South Lebanon.

Kuwait arrests 2 democracy activists

CAIRO (R) — Kuwait arrested two pro-democracy activists Sunday night, a day after releasing on bail 10 others also campaigning for the return of parliament, activists said Monday.

State security officers arrested former deputy Dr. Ahmad Al Kabeel and Ali Buarki. We do not know the charge yet, one activist told Reuters by telephone from Kuwait.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, last month ordered elections on June 10 for an Interim National Assembly to consider the future of democracy in Kuwait.

But the opposition wants the return of the more powerful parliament, dissolved in 1986 amid government charges that it prom-

oted tribal and religious strife and that deputies used their membership for personal ends.

Rabeel, 42, a philosophy lecturer, was speaking at a meeting at the home of Buarki when scores of policemen surrounded his house and officers took the two men to Al Bayan Police Station, the activist added.

Authorities Saturday night released on bail 10 campaigners arrested last week for holding what officials said was an illegal political meeting or distributing leaflets.

The pro-democracy movement, led by 32 former deputies, sees the elections as illegal and the assembly as unconstitutional.

One of the leaders of the movement, physician Ahmad Al Kha-

tib, told Reuters Sunday after his release that he would continue his campaign for the return of parliament. He renewed a call to boycott the June elections.

A total of 544 people have registered as candidates for 50 elected seats in the new assembly, while the emir will appoint another 25 deputies. More than 560 originally registered but the Interior Ministry said Sunday that some had withdrawn.

Western diplomats in Kuwait say most candidates are political unknowns.

Khatib, a radical seen by activists as a symbol of Kuwait's opposition, was arrested Tuesday night while speaking at a Diwan-nya, a traditional meeting place for men.

Sudan evacuated town under rebel attack

KHARTOUM (AP) — The Armed Forces General Command has said it has evacuated the town of Melut, confirming a claim by southern rebels last week to have captured the area, the most northern point reached in Sudan's seven-year civil war.

The General Command said the rebels attacked Melut, about 560 kilometres south of the capital Khartoum, last Tuesday and came back with reinforcements during the next two days, forcing the army to "join a nearby posi-

tion."

The statement said the army's "Gallant forces have killed ten outlaws, captured ten and wounded 500 others when repulsing the attacks."

It said the government troops "shall return to recapture their position."

The statement is similar to others made by the government to indicate the fall of an area to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The SPLA Friday claimed its

forces had captured the town of Melut on the White Nile, "wiped out" its army garrison and were controlling river traffic.

In a clandestine radio broadcast, the SPLA said it overran Melut Thursday in an assault begun the day before.

Melut is one of the most northern points reached by the SPLA in its seven year war against the Muslim dominated, government of Khartoum for economic and social reforms in the mainly Christian and animist south.

Israeli comptroller slams army spokesmen

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's state comptroller said Monday army spokesmen were under-educated, slow in reporting unrest in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and distrustful by local and foreign journalists alike.

The government-appointed watchdog said army statements were often late and uninformative.

The comptroller's annual report, covering the workings of government departments, said the spokesman's unit had no clear information policy on army activity against a 29-month-old

Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories.

"The army spokesman's unit had difficulty reporting incidents in the uprising...close to the time when they occurred because reports from the field passed slowly to the spokesman's unit...and on to the media," the report said.

"Sometimes the army spokesman's credibility in the eyes of local and foreign media was damaged. The unit had no clear instructions on its information policy for army actions against the uprising. The unit was poorly prepared for dealing with the

foreign press," it said.

An army spokesman said most of the report's findings had either already been rectified or were being addressed. He noted the criticisms referred to the period before June 1989.

The spokesman also cited a recent public opinion poll which found that some 70 per cent of Israelis thought the army spokesman's office was reliable while 54 per cent thought press coverage of the army was unreliable and stressed the negative.

Army statements and casualty reports often differ widely from

accounts by Palestinian witnesses, hospitals and international relief organisations.

In one incident which deepened mistrust, the spokesman's unit last year had to retract a statement that paramilitary border police fired on protesting Palestinians in Bethlehem, killing one, when their lives were in danger.

Television film showed the policemen firing without warning from a distance at fleeing Palestinians. A spokesman later apologised and said he had been misinformed by the force.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
15:50	News summary in Arabic
15:55	Local programme
16:10	Agricultural programme
16:45	Programme review
16:50	News in Arabic
16:55	Arabic series
17:30	Programme review
17:40	Local programme
17:50	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Cartoon for children
18:15	Des Chiffres Et des Lettres
18:30	L'appart
18:45	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in English
19:40	News in Arabic
19:50	Charles in Charge
20:10	The Nuclear Age
20:40	News in English
20:50	In the Heat of the Night

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweithel Tel. 810740.	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 683326.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62354.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A slight drop in temperature will occur accompanied by possible showers. In Aqaba winds will be southerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	12 / 25

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Salama Daboubi	776571
Dr. Majed Abu Secinah	881635
Dr. Yousef Rashid	896301
Dr. Adel Amari	812148
Firas pharmacy	661912
Perdow pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637025
Natweh pharmacy	626672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yaouub pharmacy	649445
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Radwan Sa'd	(—)
Al Sharaf pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rabah Al Bourini	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	773121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630521
Hotel Complaints	608800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	910230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radi Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	(—)
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381/332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Aidhah Maternity, J. Amn.	64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	848045
Al-Musaher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	666164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir	77101/2
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Ibn Sina Hospital	674135
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986752
IRBID:	
Princess Besma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Aqaba (RJ)
11:40	Tripoli (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:15	Vietnam (RJ)
12:30	London (RJ)
12:45	Madrid (RJ)
12:55	Rome (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:15	Paris (RJ)
13:30	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
13:40	Kuwait (RJ)
14:00	Dhahran (RJ)
14:15	Lamaca (RJ)
14:30	Cairo (RJ)
14:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:55	Damascus (RJ)
15:15	Jeddah (RJ)
15:30	Jeddah (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
11:20	Kuwait (KU)
13:20	Moscow (SU)
17:35	Rome (AZ)
18:30	Dubai, Damascus (EK)
18:40	Zurich, Lamaca (SR)
18:50	Beirut (ME)
01:00	Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Almonds	300 / 400
Apple	250 / 300
Bananas	300 / 400
Bananas (Makassar)	450 / 400
Beans	380 / 320
Broad beans	250 / 200
Cabbage	90 / 60
Carrot	140 / 100
Cauliflower	300 / 250
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	240 / 200
Dates	400 / 300
Eggplant	120 / 80
Garlic	450 / 400
Lentils	320 / 280
Lettuces (per cwt)	150 / 100
Marrow (large)	140 / 100
Marrow (small)	400 / 300
Onion (dry)	280 / 240
Onion (green)	200 / 150
Orange	340 / 300
Orange (Shamoun)	450 / 400
Pepper (hot)	150 / 100
Pepper (sweet)	300 / 280
Potato	250 / 200
Sage	150 / 100
Sprouts	400 / 300
Tomatoes	220 / 180
Watermelon	200 / 120

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
12:25	Kuwait (KU)
15:00	Moscow (SU)
18:35	Dubai (AZ)
19:30	Dubai (EK)
01:50	Cairo (MS)



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday for the Rehabilitation of the physically handicapped attends a ceremony where Gambia's president's wife (Petra photo) S. Jawara opens an annex at the Al Hussein Society

Rehabilitation centre annex opened

AMMAN (Petra) — An annex for a centre run by the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped was formally opened Monday by the wife of the visiting president of Gambia S. Jawara at a ceremony attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and other dignitaries.

The visitor inspected the facilities which offer physiotherapy sessions to the handicapped children, special education classes

and vocational training. At least 255 children have benefited from these services so far according to officials in charge of the centre.

He said the children, who spend two years of training, are normally awarded a diploma which can help them find jobs. Vocational training covers radio and television repair, sewing, embroidery, shoemaking and the manufacture of artificial limbs.

Society President Princess Majidah Raad spoke at the ceremony outlining the society's various programmes and future plans.

She said the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) had financed the first part of the complex while the new annex had been financed through contributions from the private sector in Jordan.

Among those present at the ceremony were the ministers of health and social development.

Measures are taken to help southern areas

KARAK (J.T.) — Implementation of the first phase of an emergency programme to relieve the southern governorate of Karak, hit by drought this year will begin early next month in conformity with directives from Prime Minister Mudar Badran and with a view to finding work for the unemployed citizens, according to Karak governor Ismail Duheiman.

In his announcement, Duheiman said that projects related to roads, water springs, afforestation, farming, dams and cooperative work will be implemented in the first stage.

He said that jobs will be created for the unemployed as a result of the implementation of projects in agriculture, livestock breeding and forest planting.

"To pave the way for the projects, a special committee set up last month and comprising concerned government departments has held several meetings and discussed plans for the districts of Mazar, Qaser, Aiy, Ghor Safi, Mazras as well as Karak," said Duheiman.

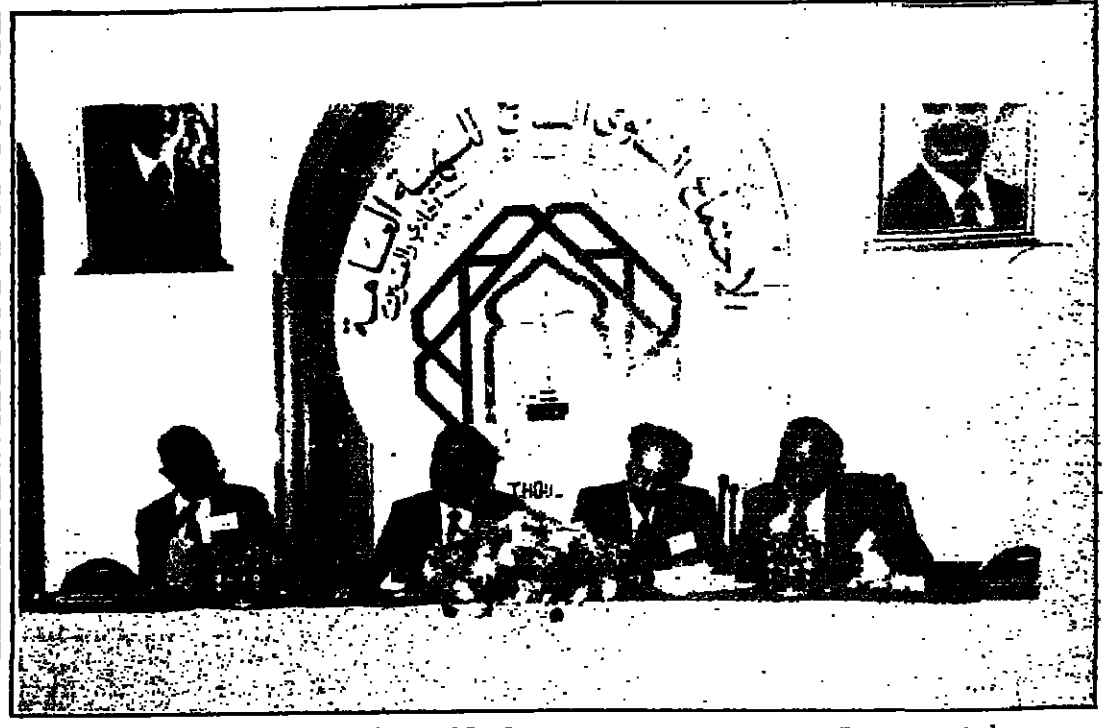
Prime Minister Mudar Badran toured the drought stricken region of the south: Karak, Tafleeh and Maan in March this year and announced that nearly \$3 million will be spent on development schemes to assist the local population.

Nearly JD 1.5 million has been contributed to the scheme by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company, both of which operate in the south.

The Prime Minister spoke at public rallies during his extensive three-day tour, openly debating matters of concern to the local citizens.

According to Duheiman JD 500,000 had been allocated for income generating projects which will employ job seekers and \$333,000 will come from the Ministry of Agriculture to help develop higher regions.

"The committee has already received JD 100,000 to commence its work and that other instalments will be forthcoming in due time," he said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday the Arab Thought Forum (Petra photo) attends the final meeting on education organised by ATF

ATF meeting on education stresses need for reform

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day meeting organised here by the Arab Thought Forum ATF to discuss education in Arab countries concluded its sessions Monday by issuing two important documents: the Amman educational declaration and the Amman declaration for education in the Arab World in the 21st century.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended the final session and addressed the delegates about the topics discussed and the importance of their meeting.

He said the conference was part of the ATF's ongoing endeavours to introduce reform to education in the Arab World. Prince Hassan described the conference as a cultural project and a modest beginning designed to define the objectives of education in the Arab countries in the coming century so that policy makers, economists and authorities in charge of information can chart programmes and plans in accordance with these guidelines.

He said the two documents manifest the ATF's determination to seek an Arab summit that would be dedicated to education in the Arab World.

Prince Hassan's words were echoed in the Amman declaration on education for the Arab World which expressed hope that one of the coming Arab summits would be dedicated solely to education.

Medical centre gets dialysis unit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new dialysis unit was formally inaugurated at the King Hussein Medical Centre Monday by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairman of the friends of the Kidney Patients Society.

The unit, which cost JD 500,000, comprises 20 different computerised machines, considered the most up-to-date of their kind in the world, according to hospital officials.

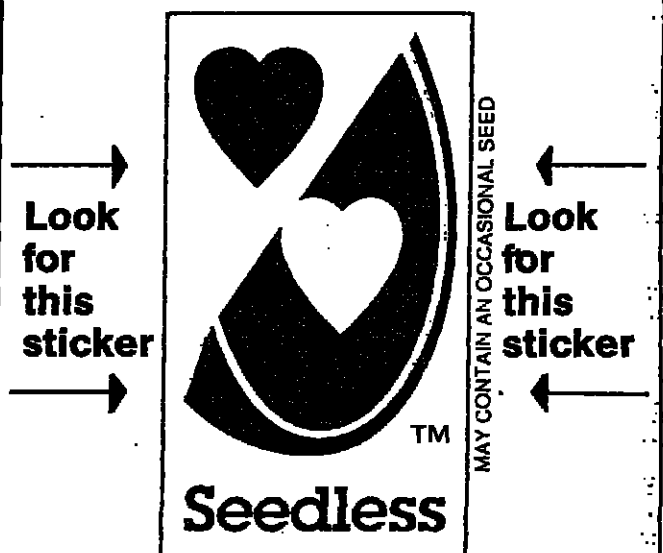
"The unit will initially provide dialysis services to 120 kidney patients at the rate of twice a week for each," the officials said.

The new unit's operational costs are estimated at JD 500,000 annually and each patient's treatment is estimated at JD 5000 a year.

WHICH IS BETTER? WHICH IS TASTIER?

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Ask for seedless Watermelon from your local vegetable market.

Each seedless fruit bears the above sticker

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Medal conferred on former ATF official

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred the Independence Medal of the Second Order on Dr. Sadeed Ibrahim, former secretary-general of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in recognition of his services and dedication to his duties. The medal was presented to Dr. Ibrahim by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, chairman of the ATF's board of trustees.

Iraqi official leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Justice Akram Abdul Qader left Amman Monday after delivering a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to His Majesty King Hussein. The message contained Iraq's official invitation to the King to attend the Arab summit conference due to be held in Baghdad towards the end of May.

Minister meets institute's director

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-general of the Paris-based Arab World Institute Edgard Pisani had a meeting here Monday with Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan to discuss cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the institute. Hamdan spoke about educational systems in the Kingdom. Pisani said the visit would help cooperation and conveyance of Arab World's culture to Europe.

Jordan, Syria to cooperate in planning

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian planning committee will open discussions in Damascus Tuesday to examine ways of cooperation in development and planning, as well as expertise and information related to planning. Dr. Safwan Touqan, Ministry of Planning's secretary-general left for Damascus Monday to head the Jordanian side to the meeting.

Tourism aims at self-sufficiency

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty per cent of the total income to the ancient Nabatean city of Petra will go to the nearby village of Wadi Mousa, and 20 per cent of income from Jerash archaeological city will go to the city of Jerash, according to Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti. The funds will be used to improve services at the two archaeological sites.

Jordanian children to display art in Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to participate in a Palestine medal competition for children organised by the Iraqi Ministry of Culture in Baghdad in the coming month. Altogether 53 paintings by students in government and private schools will be displayed.

Jordanian artists to display in Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Plastic Artists Association will take part in an art exhibition to be organised in Casablanca towards the end of May. Paintings by 10 prominent Jordanian artists will be displayed at the exhibition.

WHO meeting tackles tetanus

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) opened a 10-day symposium in Amman Monday to deal with means of combating tetanus, responsible for infant mortality in the developing nations.

Representatives from Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, North and South Yemen and Jordan, who are taking part in the meetings will review working papers and research documents dealing with tetanus and will exchange expertise in ways of combatting this killer disease.

Dr. Mamoun Ma'abreh from the Ministry of Health opened the sessions with an address in which he referred to WHO's target of eliminating tetanus among infants by the end of 1990.

"It is not enough to learn about tetanus or to take individual decisions to deal with it since sound planning and proper employment of resources are required to stem the spread of the disease," Ma'abreh said.

A WHO representative expressed the organisation's concern about the persistence of tetanus in developing countries. He said that recent statistics indicate the mortality rates are declining thanks to immunisation programmes although tetanus ranks second place after measles in infants mortality.

The symposium is being held in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

WHO worried about Palestinians conditions

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Health Organisation's (WHO) 42nd meeting which was concluded in Geneva earlier this week discussed the deteriorating health conditions of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, according to Minister of Health Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben.

Zaben, who returned from Geneva after representing Jordan at the meeting, said he delivered the Kingdom's address calling on the organisation to step up its efforts to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in health and medical affairs in view of the worsening health conditions under Israeli occupation.

"Apart from this question WHO dealt with the killer disease

AIDS, environmental health, breast feeding and health research programmes among other important topics," the minister said.

Delegates to the WHO conference stressed the need for the attainment of the organisation's goal of providing health services for all citizens by the year 2000; all members stressed the need for the rich nations to extend help to the poor countries of the world with their health services.

Zaben took part in meetings held in Geneva by Arab health ministers on the one hand and ministers of health from Jordan's partners in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) on the other.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- * Plastic art exhibition by Abir Abu Judeh, Samia Al Bourani and Hadil Bassam at Yarmouk University.
- * Exhibition of original aerial photos by Jane Tallor at hotel Jordan Intercontinental (all photos are for sale in aid of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem).
- * Book exhibition at Mu'ta University.
- * Art exhibition by George Sarkis Kaplanian at the Goethe Institute.
- * Art exhibition by Ilham Al Turk at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Art exhibition by students of Nazareth Sisters School at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Art exhibition by Husni Abu Ekaym at the Alia Art Gallery.

THEATRE

- * English play entitled "The Brothel's Family" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.)

LECTURE

- * Lecture by Dr. Sahail Yousef (in German) entitled "Cycle: Architecture between tradition and progress" — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- * Film "The New York School" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

PLAY

- * An Arabic play "One Thousand and One Night" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

AMMAN-LONDON

Daily Nonstop Flights

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For information and reservations please call Royal Jordanian at 02324 or your travel agent

Except Tue and Sat until June 1, 1990
Except Tue from June 1, 1990

ROYAL JORDANIAN

هذه هي الرحلة



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 679141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Magnanimous show of solidarity

THE "Right of Return" March has been a successful event even though it was marred by the unruly behaviour of a relatively small group of participants and subsequently an over-reaction by the security authorities. It is a success for Jordanians and Palestinians and a number of our Arab brothers to organise a popular protest march that reflected the feelings and sentiments of our people in their desire to unite and confront common dangers. It is a pride to see that our people are using democratic means not only to express their feelings, but also to show their anger at the daily Israeli practices to uproot the Palestinians from their homeland and to replace them with immigrants from the Soviet Union and other corners of the world. It is an achievement for the organisers, who through their continuous and sincere work to serve their professions and their country's causes, have been able to draw 25,000 participants to a point so close to our people on the West Bank to show the whole world that we are with them and for them in their heroic struggle for liberation.

True, some of the protesters got over-enthusiastic and hastily rushed to break security and safety rules. But their feelings and emotions and actions could not be misunderstood or mistaken, since their usurped homeland and their hostage brothers and sisters were no farther than a stone's throw from them.

On the other hand, our security people had legitimate and sound considerations to protect the march and the marchers from the obvious dangers that surrounded them. They did over-react a little. But, again, it usually happens when the over-enthusiastic get restrained by the over-protective, especially when it is a first for both.

The incidents that took place close to Jericho, however, dwarf next to what was happening next door in Hebron, where Moshe Levinger was being sentenced for only five months in prison for killing an Arab, and where he was being hoisted on the Israeli settlers' shoulders and called a hero for killing our brother.

Jordanians and Palestinians were too close to the heroes of the intifada not to display their deep emotions and frustrations in an enthusiastic fashion. And our security people were also that close to the enemy to endanger the safety and security of our people and country. A clash took place among our people. But it was not about objectives and principles. But the important thing was that our people stood together, worked together and walked all the way to show their national unity and common goal to show friend and foe alike our true feelings and solidarity to achieve our goals and national aspirations.

The march was a proud manifestations of those feelings, and at that it was a huge success.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Monday focused attention on Baghdad where the Arab summit meeting is to be held towards the end of May. The paper said that the Arab leaders now shoulder serious responsibility towards their people and their nation, and they have to find means of protecting their countries and of safeguarding the Arab masses from a looming disaster. The paper noted that for one thing, Iraq is seriously threatened with aggression from Israel and other hostile forces, while the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands are facing oppression. Furthermore, the Israelis are posing a new threat on the Arabs by inviting in more immigrants who will eventually help the Jewish state expand in every direction, the paper added. It said that the summit in Baghdad is expected to be something quite different from all previous ones, and a summit for the masses and for defending Arab soil at a crucial moment in Arab history. Millions of Arab masses are now looking to Baghdad and hoping that the Arab leaders will find solutions that can fend off dangers posed not only on Iraq and the Palestinians, but rather on the whole Arab Nation, the paper said.

Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, columnist Tareq Masarweh describes the march to the bridge in the Jordan Valley taking place Monday as a symbolic move which is bound to attract many people with hope to return. The writer says: "We all know that a peace march will never regain usurped territory, but it is a mobilisation of morale which is required for later action." The symbolic march is also a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, and also a manifestation of determination to regain lost land and a rejection of capitulation to the Israeli enemy, the writer adds. The march is now symbolic, but it is bound to wake up millions of people around the world to the need of action to reinstate justice, he continues. The writer expresses hope that the march will eventually be transformed into a real march of fighters who will embark on real steps for the return journey to the occupied lands.

The march to the bridge Monday which is supported by the professional unions in the Arab World should be viewed as an expression of feelings and a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people, said Al Dastour Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that the young men and women throwing stones on the Israeli troops, and the unionists who are imprisoned by the Israeli authorities all need moral support; and millions of people around the world need to acquaint themselves with the plight of the Arab people, said the paper. The march to the bridge is a voice considered louder than all the Arab countries' condemnations of Israel's actions, and a display of the silent determination of the Arab people to fight for their land, the paper added. As we watch the march and the ongoing intifada, said the paper, one can only hope that all Arabs will take matters more seriously and work out serious and practical plans to liberate their land.

Gazan and the intifada: United and steadfast

By Steve Sherman

such a debt.

cent.

Israel's economic offensive

But the uprising continues

ON March 28 the Israeli occupation authorities began what has become an annual event, the sealing off of the Gaza Strip from the outside world in preparation for Land Day on March 30. From the late afternoon Gaza's three exits were closed to outgoing traffic; by the next morning incoming traffic was barred and the strip's outside telephone lines were cut. While army helicopters flew overhead, the strip remained sealed off and under a blanket curfew until the early morning of April 1.

To its 680,000 inhabitants, the Gaza Strip is a prison. Its small area, with only three exits to the outside world, enables the Israeli army to close it off at will. Its 30 military bases, 24 of which have sprung up since the intifada began, house between 6,000 and 8,000 troops at any given time, although reinforcements can easily be brought in. At key locations Gazans are reminded of the presence of their wardens by the sight of huge circular sandbanks constructed on elevated spots, with military encampments placed inside. As with so much of Israel's occupation policy, the intention is intimidatory as much as strategic.

Local Palestinians detect slight changes in the army's tactics against the intifada. While the number of Palestinians arrested and injured has remained at about the same level as last year, fatalities have decreased slightly. The Israelis appear keen to avoid widespread casualties, largely because of the bad publicity they cause at home and abroad. Another change is the less frequent use of curfews since the transfer of Yitzhak Mordechai to the command of West Bank forces last August. His fondness for this measure left Jabalya, Gaza's largest refugee camp with around 60,000 inhabitants, under 230 hours of curfew in the uprising's first two years. Spot curfews, now fewer in the Gaza Strip and generally only imposed after major incidents, as in Rafah in February, are used much more frequently in the West Bank.

But life in Gaza is no easier. Clashes between Palestinian youths and schoolchildren and the army still occur almost daily throughout the territory, and arrests, mostly of young men, continue in the same numbers. The occupation more than ever seeks to control and undermine people's daily lives. It harasses and causes hardship in many and various ways. To leave the strip Gazans who work in Israel must carry computerised identity cards from which the authorities can ascertain a wide range of information on individuals. In addition, special permits are required for travel both to the West Bank and abroad. But the issuance of such permits, as well as identity cards, is dependent on payment of taxes; if these are outstanding, permits are not granted. There are even reported instances of an individual being denied travel permission because a relative has

Gaza's fishing fleet, much curtailed since the occupation began in 1967, has been subjected to even heavier restrictions since the outbreak of the intifada. Having been forcibly grounded for almost the whole of 1989, fishermen are still frequently barred from working at the wharf of the military, with boats kept ashore when the catch is likely to be good. To make control easier, the Israelis have built special enclosures at the four fishing ports in which boats must be kept.

And the intifada has brought damage to another key component of Gaza's economy, agriculture. Curfews mean that crops are left to rot waiting to be harvested or transported. Citrus exports to Jordan have recently been hit by the Israelis imposing bridge and leaving them until the load begins to rot. A recent ban on vegetable exports to the West Bank also caused heavy losses for Gazan farmers, long subjected to restrictions on planting and land and water use.

But the biggest blow to Gaza's weak economy has been the decline in the number of people working in Israel. The total is down from c.60,000 before the intifada to c. 40,000, with the number of work days reduced because of strikes and curfews, a reduction much more marked in Gaza than in the West Bank. With Israeli imposed restrictions on virtually every sector of the economy, unemployment is rising. At the same time the universities, and indeed until March 1990 all further education establishments, have been closed throughout the intifada, and scholarships for higher education in Eastern Europe have died up completely (formerly a major source of education opportunities for Palestinians everywhere, not one scholarship in Eastern Europe has been awarded to a student from the occupied territories this year). Overall, UNRWA estimates per capita income to have fallen to about 40 per cent of its pre-intifada level, again a much higher fall than in the West Bank, where incomes have always been generally higher.

As a result consumption has fallen, shops, restaurants and small businesses have closed, the consumerism of the superficial economic boom of the 1970s has died away as people learn to do without luxuries. One striking example is the collapse of the dowry for a bride. Before the intifada a man could be asked to pay as much as JD 7,000 by the family of his prospective bride; now a dowry of JD 1,500 is exceptional. A direct result of this is an increase in marriage, and also of the birth rate. Having been steady at around 4.7 per cent per annum for most of the 1980s, UNRWA believes it is now rising to 6 per

In the face of such adversity the intifada continues unabated. Perhaps the greatest achievement of the occupied territories as a whole over the last two years has been to sustain the uprising as part of normal everyday life. There are on average four or five strike days a month, when almost everything is closed, there is no transport and workers in Israel stay at home. Shop opening hours are well coordinated, most trading ceases at 1 p.m. The boycott of Israeli produce is widely adhered to where there is a non-Israeli alternative, although this is less effective than in the West Bank, where most commodities sold in the shops, with the major exceptions of sugar and salt, are either produced in the occupied territories or imported. In Gaza, local alternatives seldom exist; a striking example is dairy products — the West Bank has virtually eliminated Israeli dairy produce, while in Gaza it still accounts for 80 per cent of consumption.

Partly enforced by the economic downturn, partly self imposed, a sense of austerity pervades the Gaza Strip. Adult recreation outside the home has virtually ceased. The cinemas have closed, sports tournaments have been abandoned, cafes and restaurants are fewer and are only open for short periods. Alcohol consumption has declined sharply, as has the use of hashish, put by some at 30 per cent of young men before the intifada, but now virtually eradicated. Yet popular commitment to the intifada, in spite of all the hardships, remains. Determination that there is no going back to the pre-intifada situation is visibly firm.

For in spite of the arrests, injuries and deaths, the structure and organisation of the intifada remain intact. As a schoolteacher from Khan Yunis explained: "Arrests have no effect on the nature and quality of the intifada leadership; it rotates, its base is too rooted in the Palestinian masses, everybody is involved in it. If by chance the Israelis do manage to arrest the right people, and usually they don't know who they are looking for, others readily come along to take their place."

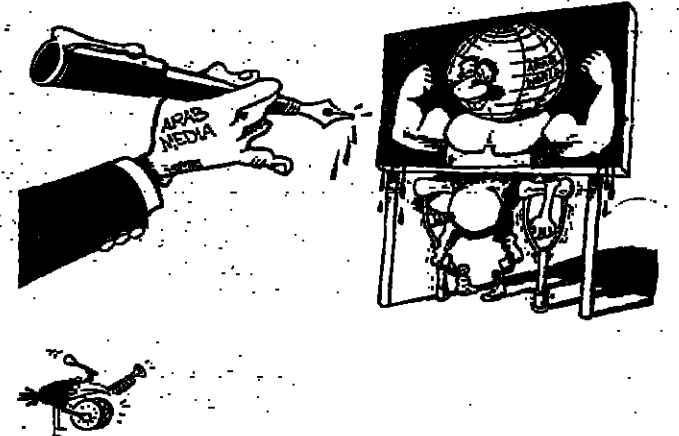
Unity is the key

The key to much of this success is that the resistance remains united, in spite of the Israeli media's portrayal otherwise. Generally, the Unified Leadership, Hamas and Islamic Jihad are coordinating their activities. When 18, 19, 20 March were all declared strike days, by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Unified Leadership respectively, people felt three days

of strikes was too much and Hamas willingly withdrew their strike call in the Gaza Strip and Islamic Jihad theirs in the West Bank. The recent truce between Hamas and Popular Front activists in Khan Yunis, cited by the Israeli press as an example of extremists of right and left uniting against Yasser Arafat's too "moderate" position, in fact illustrates the strength of intifada unity, as it brought to an end an often violent conflict which had seriously obstructed unity or action. In fact Hamas, the "intifada wing" of the Muslim Brotherhood, has never been as strong as the Israelis like to believe. It has been able, far more easily than the PLO factions, to bring money, mostly of Saudi origin, into the territories, to fund clinics, kindergartens and other facilities. But its support in the Gaza Strip, which is far higher than in the West Bank, stands, according to a number of local observers of varying political backgrounds, at around 10-15 per cent; 25-30 per cent, according to the same sources, support the Popular Front, between 50 and 60 per cent Fateh. Islamic Jihad appears to be a small extremist guerrilla group, quite independent of the Muslim Brotherhood. Although small, it enjoys wide respect among Gazans across the political spectrum, for military efficiency and daring and supposed incorruptibility.

The only real indications of factional strength are the results of recent elections to the executives of the Arab Medical Association and the Gaza Engineers Association. In the former, 11 Unified Leadership candidates stood against 11 from Hamas; Hamas only managed to win one seat. But in the latter, Hamas won five of the nine seats in spite of winning only 40 per cent of the votes cast, because the Unified Leadership fielded three candidates (Fateh, Popular Front, Communist party) for each seat.

Support for both Hamas and the leftist parties has grown since the intifada. Although few would go so far as to agree with Hamas' accusation that Arafat is a traitor who has "sold out" the Palestinians by making too many concessions, many are frustrated at the lack of progress on the diplomatic front. Calls for the resumption and intensification of "armed struggle" are heard from members of all the PLO factions. But the vast majority of Gazans accept the bulk of the PLO's concessions, including the declaration of independence, the recognition of Israel, even the two-state solution, which, before the intifada, was anathema to many of Gaza's refugees as it would do nothing to alter their refugee status — Middle East International, London.



Despair for the 1990s

By Abdul Wahab Badarkhan

The following article translated from the London-based Lebanese daily, Al Hayat, is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

IT IS NOT true that the Arab World is adrift, left to its fate and the whims of international politics. The search is on, we are told, for an all-encompassing comprehensive Arab strategic plan that will dazzle everybody.

A strategy for what? It may be unfair even to ask this question, considering the huge volume of studies and research papers churned out by the analysts and paid thinkers. These thinkers have drawn a picture of the Arab World on paper which they cannot help but admire. The rulers too, are so impressed by this magnificent picture that it has transfixed them, leaving them unable to turn it into reality.

Some of them say that stability is a precondition for any Arab strategy. While this sounds true, it is too vague. Stability requires security, but it also requires a sound economy, and a feeling among people that they are respected and not trampled upon. In short, stability itself can only be achieved when there exists a conscious policy to bring it about. Without being unfair to or placing any Arab regimes, it can be said that they have been relatively successful in some areas, while failing miserably in others. If one can still think in terms of an integrated Arab World, it must be said that the obsession with stability is meaningless. The real issue is the effect of that stability on society and the lives of citizens.

It is amazing, or rather painful, to see how objective barriers block the way of those thinkers devising their reports on "the Arab World in the 1990s" or "the Arab World in the 21st century". Some Arab countries have no concern other than their foreign debt, as though they have solved all their other problems. Others are still obsessed with their national security, if not their very existence and borders.

Perhaps the prevalent characteristic of the Arab World in the 1990s is the collapse of all the values and illusions which shaped it in the previous decades. It has become necessary to come up with new values on which to build a viable strategy. While the theories of the "progressive" Arabs have collapsed without a shadow of doubt, so have the illusions of the "reactionaries". The "progressives" cannot even voice support for perestroika, because support requires commitment, and commitments are piling up in the dustbins of the Arab League. But neither can the Arab "reactionaries", who cheered on the downfall of Communism, claim that the repentant Communists are returning to the civilised democratic fold of Arab "reaction". In other words, our progressives were never progressive in the leftist Eastern sense, and our reactionaries were never part of the world of right-wing democracy in the Western sense. Is this a crisis of identity? No, it is a crisis of backwardness.

One sincere advocate of radical Arab political perestroika has come up with a view which may sound comic to the point of being serious. He believes that if the Arabs are to face the 1990s in their current state, they have to accept three things they have always rejected.

First, they must accept the Camp David Accords. This is because the policies of the Arab states are so wretched and ineffective, they cannot hope to achieve more than what these accords gave them.

Secondly, they must embrace the Sykes-Picot agreement, which divided the Arab World into 21 states. They must not overturn it in their pursuit of unity, because with things as they are, they will end up subdividing the area into twice the number of states and states.

Thirdly, they must cling to the "reactionary regimes" with all their strength. For only the existence of these regimes can protect people from the greed and stupidities of the Americans.

It is only an opinion, which embodies the despair of past, present and future in an era ruled by those who refuse any change except that which perpetuates them. But if anyone opposes this view or considers its proponent sinful, let them cast an alternative at him.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Mary Salim Amman.

Soviet Jews may be 'desperate' but 'relief' can't be at Arab expense

By Lemis Andon

This is the second of a three-part report

AT A RECENT joint Arab-American seminar organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), consensus emerged on the repercussions of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. However, the two main working papers reflected a striking gap between the Arab approach and a still influential trend in the American circle which is believed to have considerable impact on Washington.

The two papers were presented to the symposium on American policy in the Middle East, which was attended by a group of prominent Arab intellectuals and politicians and a number of Middle East experts from the University of Harvard.

The first paper, presented by the political advisor to His Majesty King Hussein, Adnan Abu Odeh, on "Emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and its implications" was in almost complete contrast with the American paper submitted by Dr. Marshall Goldman, a renowned Harvard Sovietologist, entitled "A New Soviet Foreign and Domestic Policy and its implications for the Middle East."

While Abu Odeh's paper explored in detail the role of massive Jewish immigration in Israeli strategy and linked it to Israel's current attempts to tighten its hold on the occupied territories, Dr. Goldman almost completely ignored such repercussions and stressed instead, exclusively, on Soviet Jews' "desperate" conditions.

Dr. Goldman's paper, in its large part, did not seem to match the views expressed by most of his colleagues at the conference, but appeared to substantiate Israel's claims that it is in urgent need of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

After reviewing the phases of the rise and decline of anti-Semitism in Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union, Dr. Goldman concluded that the changes in the Soviet Union had given way to the emergence of extreme nationalist and anti-Semitic movements which necessitate the exodus of Soviet Jews to escape an impending danger.

Stressing the emergence and role of Pamyat (the memory), a Russian extreme right-wing group, Dr. Goldman claimed that Jews in the Soviet Union were threatened with possible pogroms and massacres.

"Against this background of panic, Soviet Jews are seeking as never before to leave the Soviet Union," he contended. Throughout his paper, Dr. Goldman tried repeatedly to justify Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. Ironically, he seemed to imply that despite the international Western and Jewish campaign to pressure Moscow to allow Jews to leave prior to the perestroika

era Jews had sought to leave in the mid-seventies mainly to seek "economic and political freedoms and family reunification."

"Now it is a feeling of panic and fear of physical harm," he said in what appeared to contradict one of the strongest arguments used in the past which associated communism with anti-Semitism.

Dr. Goldman, however, did not hesitate to suggest that the Arabs might be supporting and financing right-wing organisations such as Pamyat. This accusation provoked a strong written rebuttal by Dr. Asaad Abdul Rahman, a political scientist and member of the Palestine Central Council. "There is a contradiction in this statement. If Arabs supported and funded Pamyat that means that they are actually instigating Soviet Jews to emigrate," he pointed out.

Dr. Goldman drew parallels between the present status of the Jews in the Soviet Union and those in pre-Nazi Germany by insisting that they were being blamed for the "political and economic collapse" there.

In his paper Abu Odeh also drew parallels between the current conditions and those which prevailed after World War II. But while Dr. Goldman stressed the need for the Jews to leave the Soviet Union, Abu Odeh warned against a new Palestinian exodus and Israeli annexation of the West Bank and Gaza.

"The Arabs could see that the relentless efforts to create Israel would soon come to a climax... it is clear to the Arabs that they are witnessing the final stages of Israel's scheme to make its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip irrevocable," Abu Odeh said.

Abu Odeh, who said the concept of Jewish immigration had a high priority in the Zionist ideology and Israeli strategy, also argued that "the coincidence of two factors — a danger threatening Jews in their country of origin and their inability to go elsewhere" had triggered waves of Jewish immigration to Israel throughout history.

At a later stage, Abu Odeh, who apparently avoided portraying "coincidence of the two factors" as "a conspiracy," nevertheless cited a number of reasons which make Soviet Jewish immigration an essential part of the Israeli strategy.

In his view, Soviet Jewish immigration helps solve at least four problems for Israel: — To substantiate claims that the territories are needed to absorb the immigrants, an argument "which would find a ready audience in Israel."

— The wave of immigrants would diffuse the demographic bomb.

— The all-too-important American Jewish community would overcome its misgivings and unite in supporting any Israeli policy that is presented within the framework of absorbing the immigrants.

— The settlement of the immigrants in Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza Strip would create irreversible fait accompli.

— The immigrants, most of whom are highly educated and skilled, would replace outgoing Israelis and give a big boost to Israel's economy.

Dr. Goldman, who conceded that until 1990 only seven per cent of all Soviet Jews leaving the Soviet Union went to Israel, completely detached the new wave from within the context of Israeli settlement strategy. He argued that most immigrants had no desire to settle in the occupied territories.

"Those arriving today are fleeing from terror and have no desire to put themselves on the West Bank proper. They will settle for Tel Aviv and not for Kiryat Arba," he wrote, implying that there was no danger from the new arrivals settling in Israel proper.

"The statement that Israel does not encourage immigrants to settle in the occupied territories is an obfuscation," Abu Odeh countered in his paper citing a host of financial incentives that the Israeli government provides for immigrants to move to the occupied territories.

Another striking contrast between the two papers was that while Abu Odeh concluded that the new wave of immigrants, coupled with Israeli policies to evict Palestinians from their homeland, threatens to undermine the peace process, Dr. Goldman stood out in the symposium by arguing that it might revive peace efforts.

"Ironically, the new wave of Soviet immigrants could stimulate the peace process," Dr. Goldman wrote.

In his view the immigrants are more likely to vote for Likud, thus "causing the negotiators in the Arab World to seek a speedier resolution of the conflict before the new immigrants come to increase the political standing of the conservatives."

Unfortunately, Dr. Goldman was not able to come to Jordan to take part in the conference and elaborate on his conclusions. However, throughout his paper he did not allude to the Arab or PLO negotiating position or the Israeli government's rejection of American peace proposals.

The implied message in his conclusion was that he expected the Arabs to make more concessions, an argument which contradicted most of the views expressed in the seminar.

Abu Odeh called for an international declaration committing the Security Council or its five permanent members to work for a peace settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and affirming the Palestinian right to self-determination and the right of all nations in the region to live in peace.

Democracy, pluralism can counter growth of fundamentalism, says Arab lawyers' chief

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fanaticism and fundamentalism in the Arab World could only be countered through advancing democracy and allowing political and social pluralism which would in turn accommodate the national characteristics of the different Arab states, according to the general secretary of the Arab Lawyers Union.

Farouk Abu Eissa maintains that the continued Arab disunity has created special national characteristics in each and every one of the Arab states, which cannot be united under the umbrella of one ideology even if it is Islam.

"Facing up to regional predicaments and problems cannot become effective unless we are able to assimilate the whole nation and this is impossible unless we respect all views and differences here and there," Abu Eissa told the Jordan Times in an interview conducted on the peripheries of the Arab professional associations meeting held here this week.

According to Abu Eissa, who was a member of Sudan's revolutionary council during the democratic era in the country, Jordan, which led the march to democracy in the Arab World by holding free elections in November last year, will be able, in a few years, to prove

his theory.

"If Jordan was to hold new elections today what will emerge is a more liberal and reasonable Lower House of Parliament," Abu Eissa said.

He argued that the Jordanian government, after realising how the "undemocratic" elections law allowed for the emergence of an Islamist majority, "would work on writing a more democratic law which would allow for the correct representation and plurality of ideologies."

"The results would indicate a 70 to 80 per cent change from the present structure," Abu Eissa maintained.

What resulted in the shift to fundamentalism in the Arab World, according to Abu Eissa, is the lack of democracy.

According to Abu Eissa, while the door was open for

religious practice, civil liberties and rights "were denied to the progressives and liberals which in turn allowed for this shift to fundamentalist thinking" as the only means to avoid the "predicament of citizenship" in the Arab World.

He expressed his belief that this lack of democracy and its repercussions had helped "spread the Arab predicament and diseases which can only go away through the application of democracy."

He cited Sudan as an example of the situation in the Arab World. "We have Africans, Muslims and Christians," he noted and said he would admit that the "democratic practice (in Sudan) after the April 1985 intifada was negative."

"What took place at that time was responsible for

burying democracy," he said.

But he rejected that coups d'etat were the answer to the malpractices of democratic application. "What should have happened is more democracy... allowing for more pluralism and different views."

Sudan, which, Abu Eissa said, enjoyed great differing cultures and different dialects and unequal social division, should have had a political role that reflected these differences.

"Sudan is a mini-example of the Arab World at large. One cannot solve its problems by submerging the differences that lay within it even if it was through a comprehensive ideology such as Islam," Abu Eissa said.

He called on all the progressive ideologists in the Arab World to "form one eye; an eye

to watch the fundamentalist spread and coordinate against it."

Abu Eissa highlighted the need to recognise the necessity to allow political pluralism and respect differing opinions among the different Arab states as a "prelude to the much needed Arab unity."

He also underlined the need for an immediate Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation to allow for the proper utilisation of "Arab resources and abilities."

He praised Jordan's democratic shifts and the government's decision to allow the "right of return" march to take place. "Why is this the first time that Arab professional associations' representatives were able to meet? Because there is democracy here and we can say our mind."

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Israel to open universities

(Continued from page 1)

Bank villages.

Mitza told the court that troops had beaten Palestinians brutally and broken their bones in several other West Bank villages and towns but these instances had not been publicised.

He called the cases "deviations" and said there were many of them.

The radio said Mitza was questioned by the defence about the existence of special army units.

PLO confident of summit

said. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had sent a special envoy to Tripoli Sunday with an invitation to Qadhafi.

Salah Khalaf, second in command to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in the Fatch group, told the London-based newsletter Mideast Mirror that a Syrian participation at whatever level would speed up a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation.

This in-turn would also open a new chapter in Arab-Iranian relations since Syria was Iran's only Arab ally during the Iraq-Iran war and remained Tehran's closest friend in the region. Khalaf told the newsletter earlier Monday in a telephone interview.

"I am confident that in the end Syria will participate in the summit in one way or the other," Khalaf said in the interview. He said that even if Syrian President Hafez Al Assad did not go to Baghdad, there would be a senior representative attending the planned summit on his behalf.

"This summit will discuss fateful issues," said Khalaf. "Under no circumstances should Syria isolate itself, and by the same token it is not permissible that anyone should isolate Syria."

Khalaf was equally confident that the Syrian-backed Lebanese government of President Elias Hrawi would also be present in Baghdad whether or not Syria participated.

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Saudis go downstream in bid to tame oil market

By Rawhi Abaidoh
Reuter

NICOSIA — Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, is seeking more refining and marketing outlets for its crude to try to protect itself from a wildly speculative market.

Buoyed by the success of Star Enterprise, a joint project with the U.S. giant Texaco, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Sunday the kingdom planned to enter into similar projects in the United States and other countries.

But Saudi Arabia, a traditional exporter of crude and lacking expertise in the lucrative Western markets, appears to be against taking risks by buying out oil projects.

"We are receiving many, many offers from oil companies, including major ones to buy," a Saudi oil official told Reuters in a telephone interview from Riyadh Monday.

"But we are more interested in joint ventures because it is better to join people who know the market and have expertise."

"And we are not going to enter any project unless it is economically sound and provides good

capital return."

Saudi officials say the main reason for going downstream into refining, marketing and distribution is to protect its oil industry, the backbone of the economy, from damaging price swings.

Saudi Arabia, which owns nearly one-fifth of the world's proven reserves, will soon start a multi-billion dollar programme to increase production capacity by over 40 per cent to around 10 million barrels per day (bpd).

"Oil policymakers... are aware of the importance of building a solid Saudi petroleum industry based on commercial bases and not prone to fluctuations in the oil market," the Saudi press Agency said Sunday in a commentary on Nazer's tour.

Nazer last week visited Star Enterprise's refineries in Texas, Louisiana and Delaware, which posted revenues totalling \$6.3 billion in its first year of operation.

Formed in January 1989 with assets of about \$2.5 billion Star has access to some 600,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Saudi crudes. It sells them as refined products in some 12,000 service stations in 28 eastern and southeastern states.

public's diminished faith in the economic programme.

A survey released last week by the Brazilian Association of Credit and Savings Companies said \$4 million has been pulled from savings deposits. That would represent 36 per cent of all money in accounts not blocked by the freeze.

Another sign of the public's lack of confidence is a recent boom in sales of residential safes. Brazil's biggest safe manufacturer, the Bernardini Company, said home safe sales were almost double levels prior to March.

"We've always had a credible financial sector. But people are skeptical now and would rather spend or buy dollars," Camargo said.

A final problem is that many companies skirted the bank freeze.

The prominent Rio daily O Globo reported last week that firms had managed to "unfreeze" almost \$50 billion, mostly by paying off debts and taxes as rules allowed.

Jean Daniel Peter, the president of the Brazilian subsidiary of Union Carbide, told the paper the company used all of its \$18 million caught in the bank freeze.

Others resorted to illegal methods. Blocked funds could be donated to charities, and some companies made deals whereby they made large contributions but received part of the money back.

The money injected into the economy by such methods is believed in part responsible for the rise in inflation.

This constitutes about 50 per cent of total Saudi sales to the United States, by far the world's biggest consumer.

The official said Saudi Arabia was also interested in markets in Western Europe, Southeast Asia and Japan.

OPEC differences over pricing and production policies have often played havoc with an increasingly speculative oil market that saw prices swinging between \$16 and \$24 a barrel since last December. In 1986, a destructive price war brought prices down to below \$10.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's principal member, has repeatedly advocated moderate prices to maintain a recent surge in demand.

Nazer is said to favour what an aide described as a "reciprocal security," with Saudi Arabia ensuring secure supplies to consumers in return for being allowed access to their oil markets.

Oil companies are also urged to enter into upstream operations — exploration and production — to increase output capacity and meet rising demand.

"More integration means more stability," the official said. "Both sides will be looking at both ends of the industry."



John Sununu

Bush aide attacks Democrats on budget summit

By David Lawsky
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's chief of staff, John Sununu, sparked a new controversy on Sunday by blaming Democrats for making it necessary for Bush to call a budget summit.

Sununu said on U.S. television that the critical event in Bush's decision to call for the budget summit on Tuesday was the lack of enthusiasm the House of Representatives had shown for its Democratic leadership's spending blueprint.

But White House budget director Richard Darman said on another television programme that the summit was necessary because interest rates had not dropped as the administration had hoped and the savings and loan bailout "threatens simply to explode in terms of its effect on the deficit."

Democrats have expressed concern that the budget summit is a political trap to give the Republicans a chance to attack them in the fall elections.

Sununu did nothing to discourage such speculation.

"One of the things that I think ought to be clear is that the congressional failure — the failure of the leadership in Congress to be able to move the budget process forward — is an awful good reason to elect Republicans," he said.

Sununu's remarks drew a sharp rebuke from House Budget Committee Chairman Leon Panetta. The California Democrat said such comments might sabotage the summit before it started.

"If again there's going to be a game of political blame-shifting from one side to the other than frankly these talks are not going to get off to a very good start," Panetta said on television.

He said both sides must be willing to accept blame for the problem of the growing \$3.2 trillion national debt or "these discussions are not going to be productive."

Darman said the savings and loan bailout could add an extra \$50 billion to the deficit problem.

Kuwait cuts spot sales of crude oil

NICOSIA (R) — Kuwait has stopped spot sales of crude oil and made arrangements to supply its refineries in Europe from elsewhere to comply with an OPEC pact, Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah was quoted as saying on Monday.

"We have stopped all spot sales, and we have also halted supplies of Kuwaiti crude to our refineries abroad, having instructed KPI (Kuwait Petroleum International) to make alternative arrangements for crude supplies for its European refineries," the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) quoted Sheikh Ali as saying in an interview on May 10.

"These and other measures are likely to get us very near to our quota," he added.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had agreed earlier this month to reduce total production by six per cent for May and June from around 23.5 million produced in April to help oil market prices recover.

OPEC's output ceiling in the first half of 1990 is 22.086 million bpd.

Oil prices in spot markets had declined around 25 per cent in the first four months of this year due to unchecked output by the 13-member group, especially by three big Gulf producers, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

At the Geneva meeting, Kuwait had pledged to cut its output to its 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) quota level during the May-July period from an estimated 1.9 million in April.

The Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said oil market prices recovered around one dollar per barrel in the week following OPEC's meeting in Geneva due to actual and impending output

cuts by OPEC members.

It said Saudi Arabia has taken measures to cut both wellhead output and sales by around 400,000 bpd to its 5.38 million bpd quota level.

Most customers of Saudi Arabia have reached an agreement with the kingdom for voluntary cuts in nominated liftings in May around 10-15 per cent, like Shell which is said to have agreed a 10 per cent cut, and in some cases up to 30 per cent.

"In this they seem to have been highly successful since, not surprisingly many companies were only too glad to trim their lifting commitments at a time of substantial oversupply," MEES said.

The oil industry newsletter said Abu Dhabi, the biggest producer in the United Arab Emirates, is expected to trim output and sales by around 150,000 bpd in June.

The UAE had pledged to cut 200,000 bpd from its 2.1 million bpd output in May-July period.

But MEES said unsold Iranian crude was still piling up in north-west Europe and the Mediterranean and posed a threat to market price stability.

The newsletter, quoting market sources, said this overhang of crude could total 50 million barrels, with 20 million already waiting buyers and another 30 million barrels of April loadings heading for these markets.

MEES said as some Saudi customers reduced liftings in May and June, they might make up the difference by purchasing Iranian crude which is cheaper than Saudi oil.

It said Iranian crude prices were around 65 cents per barrel below Saudi prices.

Iran's crude oil output in April averaged 3.012 million bpd in April, down from 3.15 million in March, the newsletter added.

Iran's OPEC output quota is 3.14 million bpd.

Brazil's economic plan shows signs of trouble

By Ken Silverstein
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Signs of renewed inflation and financial speculation have raised fears in Brazil that a drastic economic austerity plan launched in mid-March is running into trouble.

"The full economic picture is not clear but one thing is: things are getting worse," said Alexandre Barros, a political consultant.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello met all weekend with key advisers, and rumours abounded that new austerity measures would soon be announced, including tightening credit and increasing interest rates to hold down the money supply.

"The government will have to take immediate action now, or the situation could spin out of control," said economist Jose Marcio Camargo of Rio's Pontifical Catholic University.

"We may soon be facing a recession with inflation — the worst of both worlds."

The main concern is inflation, which seemed under control after President Fernando Collor de Mello imposed his austerity plan on March 16, a day after he took office.

The measures, which included an 18-month freeze on \$115 billion in savings accounts and money market deposits, drastically reduced record annual inflation of almost 5,000 per cent.

The plan also led to a dramatic economic downturn, with unions estimating 300,000 people

fired and businesses reporting drastically reduced sales.

The government has said the slowdown is needed to put the economy in order.

But after predicting just 10 days ago that inflation was "dead and beaten," Cardoso de Mello said on Friday the cost of living rose more than 3 per cent in April.

Several private institutions say the government is seriously underestimating inflation, and that the real rate for April was between 10 per cent and 20 per cent.

"Whatever the true figure, the cost of living is creeping back up again," said Camargo.

Also troubling observers was the return of financial speculation, which forced the government to sell gold last week to keep down the price of the metal.

And the dollar already has recovered its early March value of 80 cruzeiros.

The dollar on the illegal but widely tolerated black market had fallen by more than 50 per cent after Collor announced the austerity plan, which made cruzeiros scarce.

Last week, federal police raided the offices of black market operators in Sao Paulo to try to slow the dollar's rise.

"Those sorts of actions are effective for only a few days. The government will have to find better ways to end speculation," said David Fleischer, a political science professor at the University of Brasilia.

The new round of speculation seemed tied in part to the

ECONOMY NEWS IN BRIEF

Baghdad, Belgrade discuss trade

BAGHDAD (AP) — Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan began talks Sunday on economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, a Yugoslav embassy official said. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the talks also involved repayment of a \$500 million loan Belgrade had extended to Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war. He said the talks were expected to end Monday with the two sides signing a protocol for cooperation in economic and technical fields. Markovic arrived Saturday on an official visit that had been delayed for a month by a political dispute between the two countries. Belgrade had criticised Iraq after the execution of Iranian-born, London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft on charges of spying earlier this year. To underscore its anger at what it described as interference in its internal affairs, Baghdad said it could not receive the Yugoslav prime minister. The Yugoslav embassy official would not say if the issue was raised during the talks Sunday. The state-run Iraqi television quoted Markovic as saying on arrival that he looked forward to expanding the volume of trade between the two countries which amounted to \$700 million last year. Yugoslav sources said Baghdad hopes to pay back part of its debt by giving Yugoslavia free oil and rescheduling repayment of the rest.

Iran: Oil prices should be far higher

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Sunday that world oil prices should be higher and urged fellow Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members to work for a "just price." Tehran Radio, monitored in Cyprus, said he was speaking at a meeting with visiting Omani Petroleum Minister Said Ben Ahmad Al Shanfari, who arrived in Tehran Saturday to deliver a message from Sultan Qaboos of Oman. "In our opinion, the real price of oil should be far higher than what it is today," Rafsanjani said. OPEC members complain that the group's target price of at least \$18 a barrel has lost at least 20 per cent of its real value since 1986 because of inflation and the depreciation of the U.S. dollar, its only pricing unit. But countries like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — key Gulf Arab producers — favour the present level remaining unchanged in nominal terms until at least 1991 to encourage demand. Al Shanfari

said Saturday that non-OPEC Oman, which in the past has led a dialogue between producers inside and outside OPEC, was willing to cut production to help stabilise prices.

Toyota to build cars in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — The Japanese automaker Toyota, Mitsui Company Limited of Japan and the Sabanci Group of Turkey will set up a joint venture and start turning out 20,000 cars a year within three years, company officials said. Ozdemir Sabanci, head of the automotive group of the Haci Omer Sabanci Holding A.S., told a news conference Sunday that a company named Toyotasabanci will be founded by July with initial capital of \$150 million. He said the total investment for the project will be around \$250 million. He said his group would own 50 per cent of Toyotasabanci. Toyota would hold 40 per cent and Mitsui 10 per cent. Sabanci said the construction of the plant in Hendek township some 160 kilometres east of Istanbul would start before January and was expected to be completed in 1992. The company will start turning out 20,000 cars annually by 1993 and could reach a capacity of 100,000 by 1995, he said. The company in Turkey will produce four-door luxury sedan models of the Corona, Corolla and Cressida.

Colombian rebels bomb oil pipeline

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian leftist rebels blew up part of the country's main oil pipeline, paralysing the transport of crude oil, local radio RCN reported Sunday. The radio, quoting the state-run oil company Ecopetrol, said about 40 guerrillas of the National Liberation Army (ELN) placed a bomb along the Cano-Limon oil pipeline in the northern Colombian state of Cesar. There have been seven previous ELN attacks on the pipeline this year. The ELN, Colombia's most active guerrilla group with an estimated 1,500 combatants, has bombed the Cano-Limon pipeline more than 100 times since 1985, causing losses of about \$500 million, officials say. The RCN report said the latest bomb destroyed eight metres of the pipeline, causing oil to spill into a nearby river. The report said Ecopetrol was working to control any ecological damage RCN said Ecopetrol has suspended the pipeline's daily pumping of 220,000 barrels. The 780 kilometre pipeline transports almost all of Colombia's crude oil destined for export.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, May 14, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	667.0	671.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	434.3	436.9
Pound Sterling	1118.9	1125.6	Dutch guilder	360.3	362.5
Deutsche mark	405.1	407.5	Swedish crown	111.1	111.8
Swiss franc	475.0	477.9	Italian lira (for 100)	55.0	55.3
French franc	120.0	120.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	195.9	197.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6830/40	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1765/75	Canadian dollar	
	1.6418/25	Deutsche mark	
	1.8450/60	Dutch guilder	
	1.3948/55	Swiss franc	
	33.95/34.00	Belgian franc	
	5.5330/80	French franc	
	1207/1203	Italian lire	
	153.33/43	Japanese yen	
	6.0040/50	Swedish krona	
	6.3935/85	Norwegian crown	
	6.2620/70	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	368.35/368.75	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Tokyo stocks ended higher, maintaining the gains of a more than 40-point early morning surge in benchmark Nikkei average. The Nikkei Index closed up 530.51 at 32,042.65.

SYDNEY — Australia's sharemarket posted its largest single-day rise in two years to break through the 1500.0 level. The All Ordinaries Index was up 32.6 points at 1517.2.

HONG KONG — Stocks were firm on Friday's New York gains on an appearance of China's Premier Deng Xiaoping, quashing rumours he had died. The Hang Seng was up 15.98 at 2,976.44.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed slightly firmer in active trading as a lack of follow-through buying and profit-taking trimmed early gains. The Straits Times Industrial Index ended 3.90 up at 1,536.07.

BOMBAY — Share prices drifted lower in nervous trading after newspaper reports of troop mobilisation along the India-Pakistan border sparked fears of war. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index fell 13.67 to 774.75.

FRANKFURT — Local election losses for the Christian Democratic Union party soured the mood on the stock market. The DAX Index fell 14.70 to close at 1,866.33.

ZURICH — Shares closed easier but above the day's lows after recovering earlier losses which were due to profit-taking. The SPI index closed 4.5 lower at 1,125.6.

PARIS — Share prices ended softer but off lows helped by selective bargain-hunting. The CAC-40 index closed 1.71 down at 2,090.14.

LONDON — Shares extended an impressive rally in late trading as the market drew further strength from sharp gains on Wall Street. At 1515 GMT the FTSE index was up 37.9 at 2,213.8.

NEW YORK — Follow-through enthusiasm from Friday's soaring rally and light futures-related buy programmes pushed blue chips above their record closing high. The Dow was up 21 at 2823.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 15, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This will be a good day to spend tracking what ever ideas arise of major importance to you that require adjustments in order to make them work for you and those of different backgrounds.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get the advice of both long time experts as well as those of more modern vintage how you can best tone up the various activities in which you are engaged.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Both recreations that have proven satisfactory and also those which you have not yet engaged in can be very good for you to raise level of your spirits.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can make your home more attractive by keeping what you like the most and adding some modern and up to date improvements to bring more style.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Seek whatever information you desire to round out your present knowledge, both from proven sources as well as from new data obtainable.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take the bull by the horns today and make those arrangements that can add to value and appearance of your possessions but be mindful of every cent of cost.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A fine time for you to think

over your various friends and acquaintances and to discriminate among those you want to be with which ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make a point to sit down and talk out at most convenient moment with loved one just where you are jointly headed and how best to obtain your joint wishes.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Making a more detailed plan of action to gain the various aims that activate you can certainly today bring you the very best of results.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are phases of your outside duties that you need more expertise on in order to get the utmost productivity from your occupation.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There is a new understanding that has considerable potential success for you but it is essential you are more aware of every aspect of it.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Forget that sociability that means so much to you today and concentrate upon the material and practical ways you can be more effective.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Watch what comes into the open by which you will be able to utilize to your advantage for you will have a big opportunity to advance now.

THE BETTER HALF

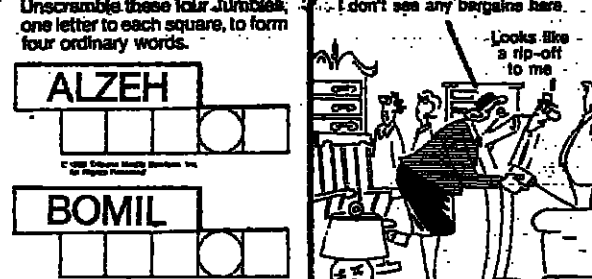
By Harris



"I can't sleep. The cockroaches have the kitchen radio turned up again!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



A FIRE SALE IS A PLACE WHERE BARGAIN HUNTERS MIGHT GET THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

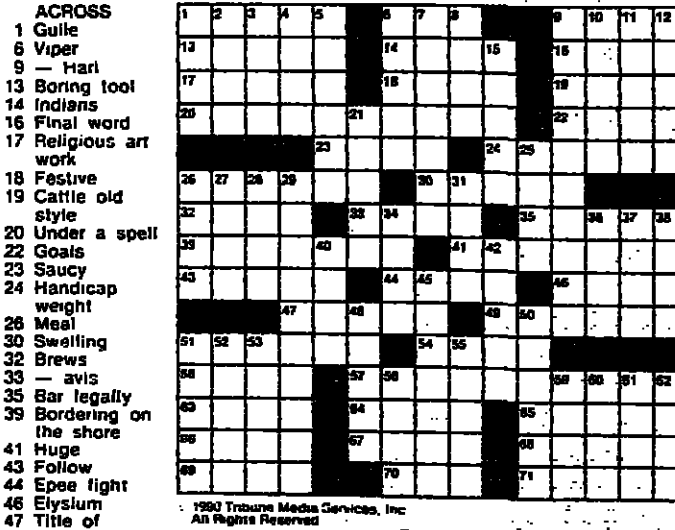
Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARMOR NOTCH TALLOW MEDLEY

Answer: Women defeat flattery, especially when it's directed towards this—OTHER WOMEN

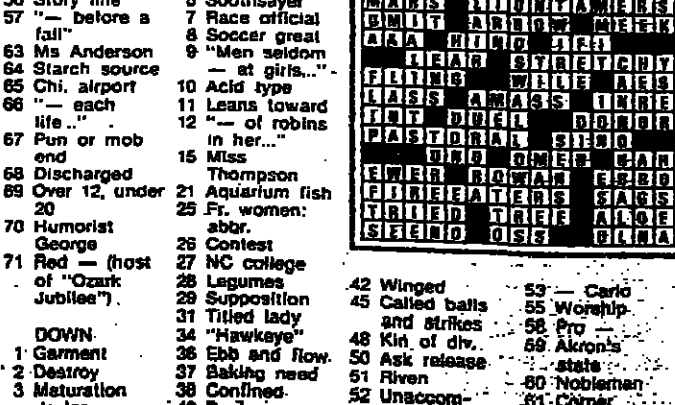
THE Daily Crossword

by Alvin L. Becker



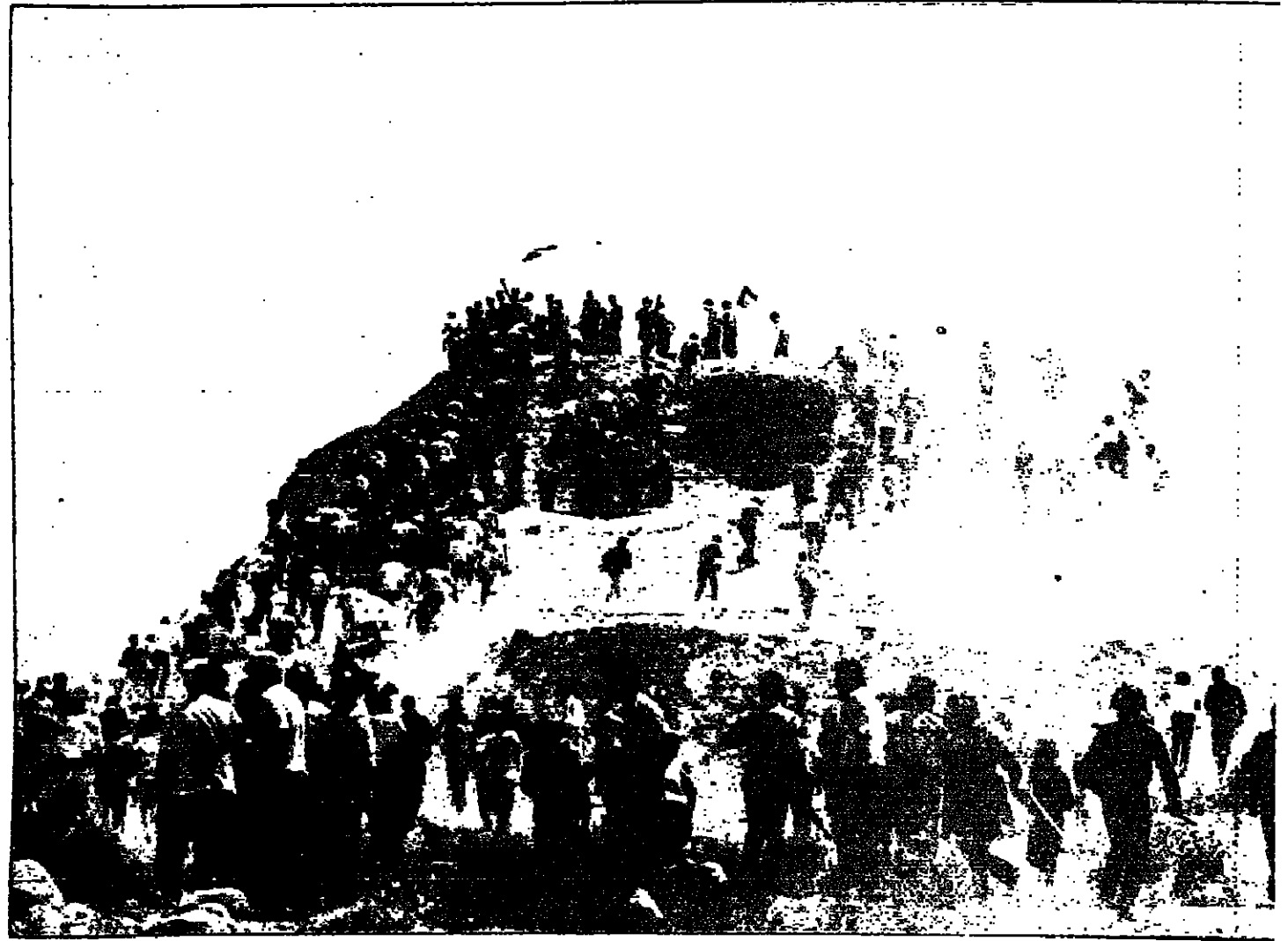
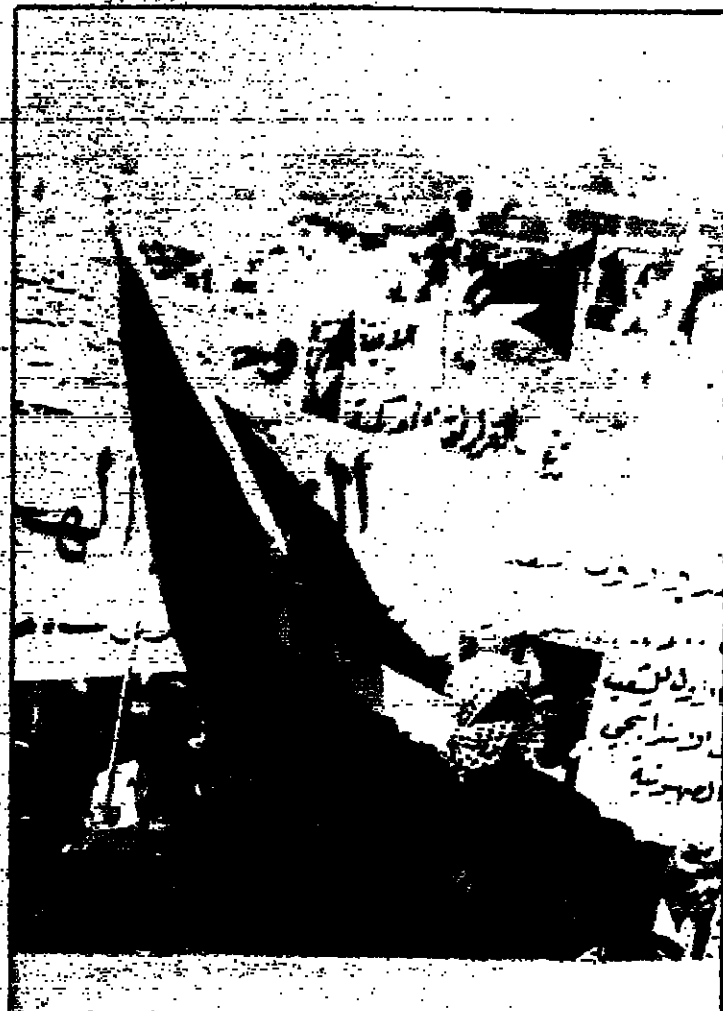
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Saturday's Puzzle Solved:



July 1990

The reaffirmation of an inalienable right...



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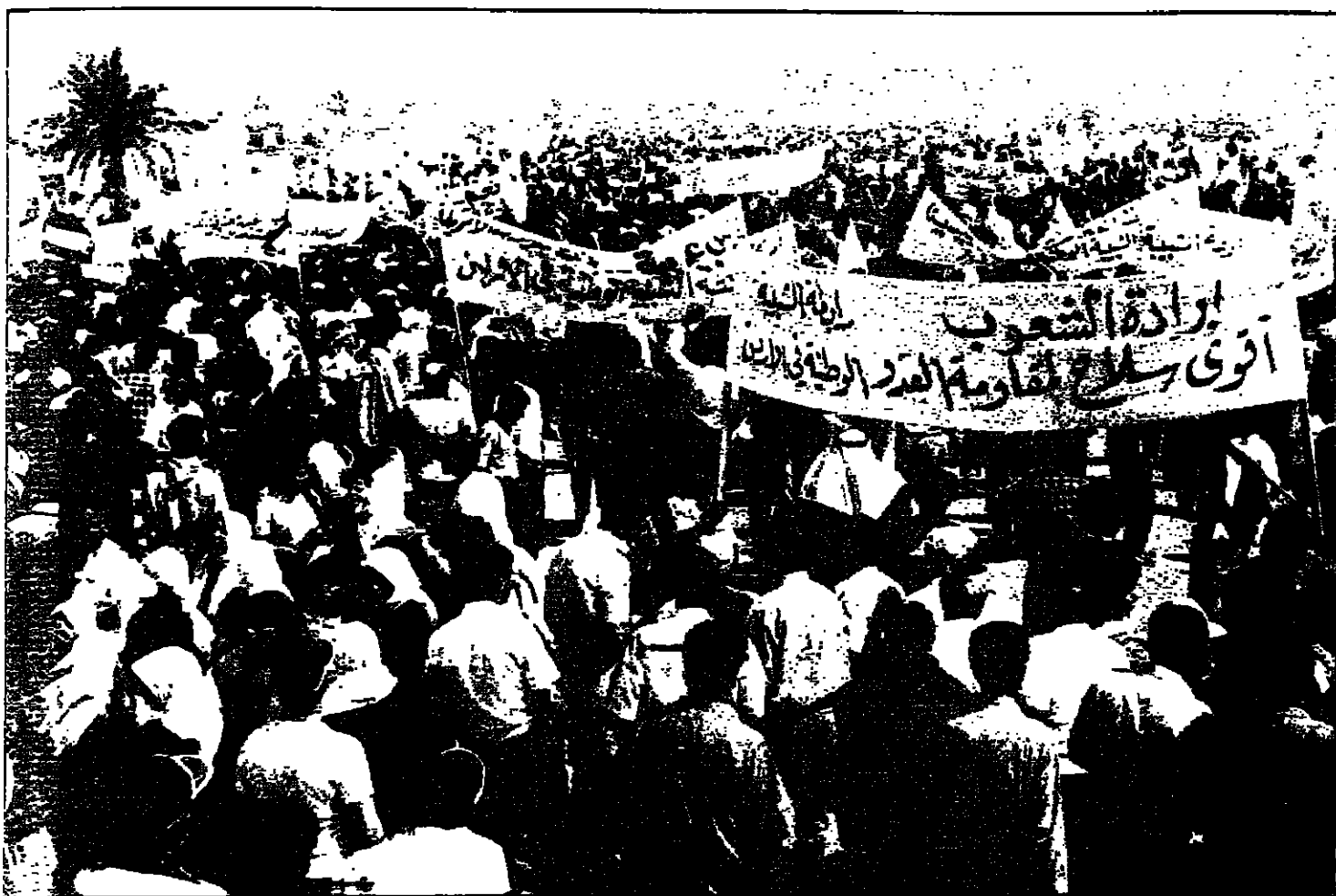
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Answers: Andy
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L. Becker

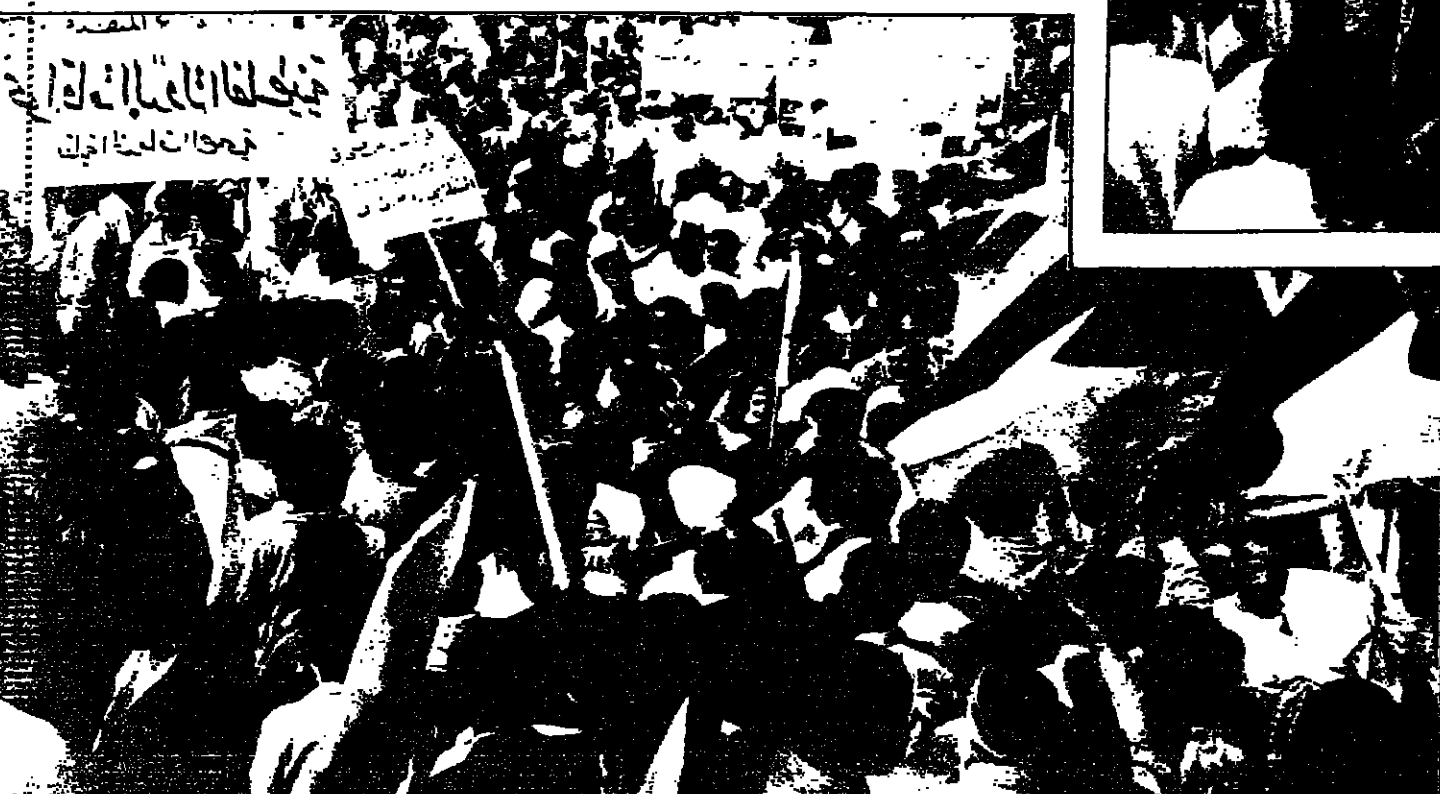
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...and a resounding message of solidarity



the establishment of an

Photos By Youssef Al Allan



هكذا من الأصل

Houseproud wins French 1000 Guineas

PARIS (R) — Houseproud, the warm-favourite, ran out an impressive winner of the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 1,000 Guineas) horse racing classic at Longchamp Sunday.

It was a first victory in the race for both her trainer Andre Fabre and owner Prince Khalid Abdullah, whose retained jockey, Pat Eddery, had the ride.

Second, a respectful two length away, was Font Aves, partnered by Alain Lequeux, with the English filly, Gharam, ridden by Michael Roberts, a further half length back.

Cydalia, bidding to give trainer Francois Boutin a quick classic double after the French 2,000 Guineas success a week ago of stable Companion Linamix, finished fourth.

Houseproud had chased home the English 1,000 Guineas winner, Salsabil, in the Prix Marcel Boissac over this course and distance last October and the pair look to be the outstanding fillies in Europe this year.

But unlike Salsabil, Fabre intends to keep his heroine to one-mile (1.6-km) races. Her immediate target is the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot in June, a race Fabre won last year with Golden Opinion.

Houseproud was not helped by the draw and Eddery dropped her in at the rear of the 14-strong field.

But when he asked her to quicken a furlong and a half (300 metres) out, she responded readily and quickly passed her opponents to win in style.

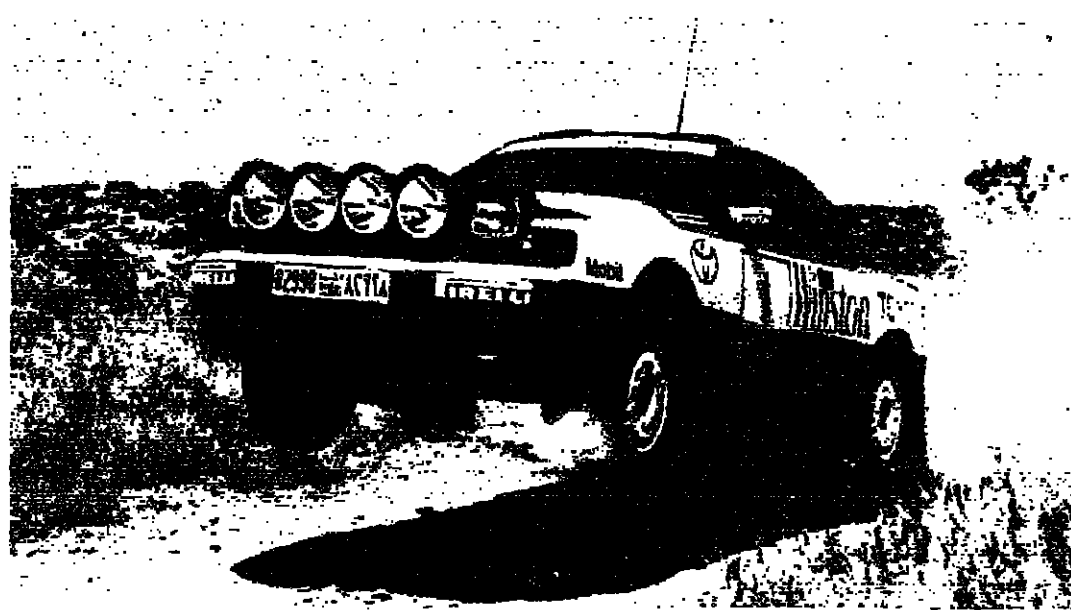
Eddery, the English champion jockey, said: "I have now ridden this filly three times over a mile and she gets better each time."

Eddery was also impressed with Epervier Bleu, the winner of the group one Prix Lupin, a race which he watched from the stands, saying: "I haven't seen a colt as good as that in England this year and he will take all the beating in the French derby."

Epervier Bleu, owned by Daniel Wildenstein and trained by Elie Lellouche after being rejected as a yearling by Fabre, extended his unbeaten record to four with another classy display.

He quickened away from Tervio and Gerald Mosse to win by a length and a half with Diable Au Corps a further two and a half length back in third.

Bleu De France, who was being talked about as an Epsom Derby candidate, failed to see out the 2.1-km trip and finished fourth of the seven runners.



A Winston Toyota Celica GT4 in full flight

Jordan Rally to test Middle East champions

AMMAN (I.T.) — The stage is set for a battle of wits and endurance when the FISA Middle East Championship resumes this weekend, with the Jordan International Rally providing a new twist to the series.

Lying in wait for the region's top drivers in this year's second round is a route stretching out for 1,055-km, and containing 24 special stages testing their ability on asphalt, gravel and dirt.

In previous years, the Jordan Rally has been held over three days. Cancelled last year, the event returns in a new two-day format which adds to its reputation as the most demanding in the championship.

Driving his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4, reigning Middle East champion Mohammad Ben Sulayem will set off first from Amman on Thursday morning well-prepared for a fight to the finish on Friday night.

He expects a particularly strong challenge from fellow-UAE driver Subhi Khalifa and Oman's Tony Georgiou, while Jordanians, Qataris, Kuwaitis and even a four-car team from the Soviet Union will be hoping to surprise the top three.

Khalifa, who has made his name by dominating the UAE's gruelling Masafi 4WD Rally, is determined to make his mark on the FISA championship this season. Both he and Georgiou will drive Mitsubishi Galant VR-Is.

Jordan's main hopes rest with national champion Issa Halaby who takes the wheel of a Ford Escort RS Cosworth loaned to him by H.M. King Hussein. The car has been driven competitively by Prince Abdullah, whose duties prevent him from taking part.

Without his customary Audi Quattro on this occasion, Lebanon's ever-optimistic Michel Saleh has entered a Range Rover.

Heading the Qatari challenge will be Nasser Al Attiya in a Toyota Celica GT, while Kuwait's Ali Al Bairaama has yet to confirm which car he will drive.

The route includes six brand new special stages, one of them sweeping across the lowest exposed spot on earth close to the shores of the Dead Sea. Sulayem, partnered by Irish navigator Ronan Morgan, leads the championship after his victory in Qatar in February. He won the last two Jordan Rallies and also claimed victory in 1984, but knows he faces a testing time in his Winston Toyota.

"It's going to be very tough," he says. "There are a lot of twists and turns and the rally will be very tiring."

Thursday morning's first three stages will be followed by a four-hour rest halt, before six more stages take the cars back out from Amman to Ibbin and then to service in Jerash.

Less than an hour later, after a regrouping, the day's last two stages take the rally back towards Amman, with the first cars returning to the capital just before midnight. At 7:30 the next morning the survivors set off on a loop to Petra and back, with a second regrouping following the morning's six stages. The first car will return to Amman at 7:30 p.m.

Clerk of the course Derek Ledger said: "As only Group A and Group N cars can score points in the championship, they will go off first. The Group B and Group S cars will be running 30 minutes behind, so we've actually got two rallies in one."

Aguilera beats Becker, wins \$1m German Open

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Unseeded Juan Aguilera of Spain, who knocked out three seeded players to get to the final, beat no. 1 seed Boris Becker in straight sets Sunday to win the \$1 million German Open.

Aguilera, who last won here in 1984, confused Becker with his touch play and steady superb passing shots to sweep to a 6-1, 6-0 7-6 (9-7) rain-delayed victory.

Becker said he left the court feeling like he had been just given a lesson in clay court tennis.

"I have never seen anything like the way he played in the first two sets. He was like a teacher. He put the ball exactly where he wanted it every time, there was no way I could do anything," Becker said.

Becker, ranked no. 3 in the world, was completely outplayed in the first two sets. From 1-1 in the first set the three-time Wimbledon champion lost 10 straight games and trailed 1-6, 0-5 when rain delayed play for an hour.

Whatever Becker tried

Aguilera, now ranked 26th in the world, countered.

If Becker came to the net Aguilera passed him. If Becker stayed back he was outplayed by the Spaniard who controlled the pace with accurate slices.

Many of the rallies included 20 shots or more with Becker ending them with an error.

When the players returned from the rain delay Aguilera served out for a 6-0 second set.

The one hour rain delay, however, helped Becker regroup.

"I talked with my coach (Bob Brett) and I was able to change my game when we started again," Becker said. "Even though I lost it was a good sign for me that I could change when I needed to. But it was so frustrating because I wanted to win so badly."

But Becker held serve at the start of the third set and received a loud cheer from the sellout crowd at the Rothenbaum tennis club.

Most fans were wrapped in overcoats to protect them from

the cold blustery conditions.

The West German then broke Aguilera's serve for the first time to lead 2-0. Becker lost his serve twice, but broke back to force a tiebreaker as errors crept into Aguilera's game.

Becker twice lost his serve in the tiebreaker, once on a double fault, to trail 3-5. He evened the score at 5-5 but floated a forehand over the baseline to give Aguilera match point.

But Aguilera lost a 22-stroke rally when a backhand went wide and Becker took a 7-6 lead, slicing a backhand volley winner.

However Becker couldn't convert the match point and one-point later gave Aguilera the match, hitting a backhand over the baseline to end a 43-stroke rally.

The victory was Aguilera's first major title since winning the German Open six years ago, and adds to other victories this year in smaller tournaments in Bari, Italy, Aix-En-Provence and Nice, France.

Alcala of Mexico wins Tour de Trump

BOSTON (AP) — When he was a boy in Mexico, Raul Alcala played soccer. But there was too much fighting and he never won anything.

Sixteen years after exchanging his cleats for a bicycle, Alcala ended 11 days of consistent and fight-free riding by winning the Tour de Trump bicycle race Sunday by 43 seconds over Norway's Ade Kvalsvoll.

"There aren't many professional riders in Mexico," Alcala said. "My victory will be on the front page, the first column."

"I came into the race only to train," said Alcala. "But I won the prologue, so I knew there was a chance to win."

Alcala, 26, of Monterrey, Mexico, won the prologue on the first day of the journey through six states on May 3. He finished 15th Sunday in a large pack of riders that included Kvalsvoll and the rest of his closest chasers. Kvalsvoll placed 35th Sunday.

"This stage was very flat and PDM (Alcala's team) is very strong," said Kvalsvoll. "There wasn't much I could do."

Erik Breukink of Holland finished third overall, 1:44 behind Alcala. Soviet Amateur Dmitri Zhdanov was fourth, 1:52 behind.

Reigning Tour de France and road race world champion Greg Lemond of the U.S., finished 18th Sunday and 78th overall, 1:40:26 behind the winner. Only 87 of the starting field of 133 completed the race.

Four years ago Alcala won the now-defunct Coors international bicycle classic in Boulder, Colorado, the previous largest cycling race in the United States. He is also the only Mexican rider to win a stage of the Tour de France.

He earned \$50,000 of the \$300,000 Trump purse, which he will share with his six teammates.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A YAMANT PUBLISHING
© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

RATHER SAFE THAN SORRY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

WEST: ♠ A J 9 5 3 2, ♥ A 5 2, ♦ K 7 3, ♣ 6

EAST: ♠ K 8 4, ♥ J 10 8 6 4 3, ♦ Q J 9 8 6, ♣ A 7

SOUTH: ♠ 10, ♥ K 9 7, ♦ A 10 5, ♣ K Q J 9 4 2

The bidding: North: 1♠, South: 2♠, West: 3♠, East: 3NT, Pass, Pass.

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

Before committing yourself to a plan of action, count your tricks! This hand from a team match shows how important that can be.

At both tables, North-South reached three no trump on identical auctions. North's two-spade rebid in this sequence suggested a six-card suit, so there was no reason for him to compete for four spades.

At both tables the lead was the queen of diamonds, taken by the king. Both declarers led a club from dummy at trick two and both Easts followed with the seven. At one ta-

ble, South's jack won and the continuation of the king lost to the ace. East reverted to a diamond, declarer ridd the ten and West took the jack and cleared the suit. When the ten of clubs failed to drop, declarer ended up with only eight tricks.

At the other table, declarer paused to take stock. With five fast tricks he needed only four from clubs for his contract. Since West could not profitably continue to attack diamonds, declarer found a line of play that guaranteed his contract as long as clubs were no worse than 4-2.

Here, too, declarer led a club at trick two, but to the nine! West took the ten and, since a diamond continuation would do no good, tried switching to a spade. But declarer was in control. Dummy's ace of spades won (to play low could nullify the gain achieved by the excellent play in clubs), and a heart to the king provided the entry to drive out the ace of clubs. The best of the defenders could muster was two tricks in each black suit.

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Butragueno is key to Spanish success

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Madrid's practice has been over for hours and nearly all the soccer stars have gone home. But the kids patiently ringing the clubhouse parking lot are staying put until they see their hero.

Inside, Emilio Butragueno prepares for the daily walk to his car. Luckily for Spain's World Cup team, the 26-year-old striker slips defenders better than he does fans.

As he moves briskly toward his red hatchback, the teenagers duck the flimsy barriers. A few metres from the clubhouse, he is surrounded.

With 20 goals in 48 international matches, Butragueno is one of the national squad's experienced players and a key to its success in Italy, where its first-round opponent are Uruguay, Belgium and South Korea.

Butragueno, nicknamed El Buitre (vulture), is a dogged competitor capable of dazzling moves that seem divinely inspired—and are highly inspirational to his teammates.

If Spain is to improve on its seventh-place showing in Mexico four years ago, coach Luis Suarez will need strong performances from Butragueno and the two other 1986 holdovers, playmaker Jose Miguel "Michel" Gonzalez and goalie Andoni Zubizarreta.

"Those of us who were the youngsters then are now the veterans. This team is much younger but we hope to have a good cup," Butragueno said. "Last time we had some 30-year-olds. This time I'm a veteran at 26. Suarez has really bet on youth."

Suarez has also bet on Spain's top clubs. Five of the players on his likely roster come from Real Madrid and another four play with another perennial powerhouse, F.C. Barcelona, which beat Real to take this season's Spanish cup.

Michel, with 43 international appearances, has been setting up Butragueno with sharp passes since 1984, on both Real Madrid

and the national team.

Now 27, Michel relies on his steady nerves, good field vision and pinpoint control to direct play up and down the centre. He has 13 goals, six on penalty kicks.

Rafael Martin Vazquez, 24, came up to Real's first-division team in 1983, but he is just coming into his own on the field.

Normally a left winger, he is fast and has a nasty shot. He moves to the centre and takes over for Michel when the latter has trouble finding his rhythm.

He was 21 caps, but has yet to score in an international match.

Real Madrid's two other contributions are Manuel Sanchis and Miguel "Chendo" Portan, who anchor the defence along with Athletic de Bilbao's Genar Andriana and Manuel Jimenez of Sevilla.

Chendo and Zubizarreta, at 28, are the oldest players on the team. Zubizarreta is a sure-handed, no-frills goalie, who has allowed 41 goals in his 43 international appearances.

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Kohl's party defeated in 2 state elections Parties in West Germany squabble over unity fears

BONN (R) — West German politicians squabbled over the price of German unity Monday after Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party lost two state polls to Social Democrats (SPD) urging a slower pace of unification.

All five parties in the Bonn parliament also held Monday morning strategy sessions to debate what the SPD's clear win in Lower Saxony and its reelection in North Rhine-Westphalia meant for their approach to the coming East-West merger.

Volker Ruehe, general secretary of Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), bluntly called the SPD "the ones who tried to stoke up people's fears" and warned the party not to misuse its new majority in the upper house of Bonn's parliament.

Gerhard Schroeder, the victorious SPD leader in Lower Saxony, rejected this as "absolute nonsense" and said the vote proved West Germans felt Kohl's unity drive was too fast, too expensive and too tough on pensioners and low-income families.

The elections in the two states, which share 40 per cent of the national electorate, were the first important polls since the Berlin Wall opened last November and

the unity-minded East German CDU chalked up big victories in East Germany.

The strong SPD vote in Lower Saxony reflected growing voter concern over the speed and cost of Kohl's unity plans — and prompted him to hint he might have to push towards it even faster to ensure the ideal does not slip away.

"In Lower Saxony we had a painful defeat," Kohl said Sunday evening. "It had several reasons... one is the uncertainty — what will German unity cost?"

But he said delays could add to the cost: "The clock is ticking. We'd be well advised to pick a timeframe that will let us bring into the barn as much German unity as we can harvest."

Kohl was due to fly to East Berlin later Monday to meet his fellow CDU leader and East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere.

Party officials said the two would not discuss the state treaty

on monetary union that aides worked out over the weekend but would focus on East-West cooperation in coming months.

It was not clear whether this would include a date for early all-German elections, which Kohl's Free Democratic (FDP) coalition partners want to hold on Jan. 13 rather than late 1991, the date the more cautious chancellor had set.

The final count in Lower Saxony gave the SPD 44.2 per cent of the vote, the FDP six and the Greens 5.7. The FDP was until now junior partner with the CDU, which scored 42 per cent.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, the popular SPD Premier Johannes Rau won 50 per cent, the CDU 36.7, the FDP 5.8 and the Greens five per cent.

The SPD victory in Lower Saxony gave the party a majority in the Bundesrat, the upper house of Bonn's parliament, and the means to block legislation including laws to finance unity.

SPD Manager Anke Fuchs said Monday her party would not hold up the two states' merger but would use its Bundesrat majority to ensure voters' concerns and social justice were also considered along the way.

Calm returns to Madagascar capital

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The capital of Madagascar was reported calm Monday after a failed coup attempt that sparked a rampage by youths who set vehicles on fire and broke some windows.

Soldiers overpowered dissidents who seized the national radio station Sunday and the government later announced that 13 rebels, including two women, were arrested.

"It is quite calm in streets today," a U.S. embassy official said Monday in a telephone interview from Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. "It seems it's all over."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

Soldiers launched teargas canisters into the radio station and exchanged fire with the dissidents, who were reportedly armed with automatic rifles, pistols, and knives.

The rebels seized the station at 6:30 a.m. (0330 GMT) and announced that President Didier Ratsiraka's government had been overthrown. They were overpowered six hours later.

Hospitals reported that at least three people died and 15 were wounded in the fighting. Jean-Claude Rahaga, the minister for information, said in a statement Sunday night the dissidents "were being interrogated and would appear in court."

The rebels claimed to be members of a previously unknown group called the Republican Committee of Public Safety.

There were no reports of disturbances elsewhere in the island nation of 10 million people.

It was the second seizure of the state-run Radio Madagascar station in two years by opponents of Ratsiraka.

On July 14, 1989, six armed men took over the national radio and claimed the government had been toppled. However, the government retook the station and there was no violence elsewhere.

The rebels' announcement Sunday called on the populace to rise against the government and demand that retired Gen. Jean Rakotonirainy, an opposition figure, be named the new president.

The rebel broadcast was cut after 45 minutes. Witnesses said Rakotonirainy joined a crowd of some 5,000 milling outside the radio station and declined the rebel offer.

Gangs of youths later set two cars ablaze and hurled rocks through the windows at the Justice Ministry and the American Cultural Centre, breaking a display window, a U.S. embassy official said.

Ratsiraka has led Madagascar since he was installed by the military in June 1975. The country gained independence from France in 1960.

Ratsiraka was elected to seven-year presidential terms in 1975, 1982, and 1989. The opposition charged fraud and demanded that Ratsiraka step down after he won 63 per cent of the votes in last March's election.

EAST BERLIN (AP) — The mess hall is a mess, the army cook is harried and the jostling line of anxious diners is ready for a military meal of meat and potatoes.

These are not East German soldiers on a chow break, however, but Romanians on the run. Scores are fleeing their East Bloc nation daily for a former Communist country that has moved more quickly toward reform.

About 700 Romanians and a few hundred Bulgarians have packed into two barracks at an East German army base on the outskirts of Berlin. Hundreds more are housed in a building once used by East Germany's feared secret police.

"Every day there are more. They come here, see the free food and the free housing, and call home. Then more come," Maj. Harry Kretschmer says as he strolls through a hallway packed with squalling children and milling adults.

"We do not know what to do with them. We are filled to capacity," Kretschmer said.

East Germany, reeling from a creaky economy and an exodus of its own citizens to West Germany, suddenly finds itself luring other East Europeans whose countries do not have a wealthy

U.S., Philippines begin talks on bases; rebels kill 2 Americans

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Washington's chief negotiator on the future of American military bases in the Philippines said Monday the killing of two U.S. airmen was a "brutal and clumsy attempt" to drive a wedge between the two countries.

The United States and the Philippines began talks Monday on the future of U.S. military bases here.

Later Sunday, suspected Communist rebels killed two air force enlisted men near Clark Air Base, one of the six American installations in the Philippines. A third American escaped.

The talks, which opened at the heavily guarded Central Bank building, will determine if the United States can retain the bases after their lease expires on Sept. 16, 1991.

In his opening statement, Richard Armitage, former assistant secretary of defence, blasted the "lawlessness and banditry" of the New People's Army (NPA), which police believe carried out

Sunday's killings.

"This brutal and clumsy attempt to drive a wedge between the United States and the Philippines will fail," Armitage said.

"Today, we fight to develop the nation democratically and economically, and at the same time have to contend with the lawlessness and banditry of the New People's Army. And you have our support."

The New People's Army, in a statement to news organizations, denounced the bases, talks and called on the Filipino people to unite against the installations.

"Go home immediately or suffer the agony of attrition," the statement said. "The NPA pledges that all its territorial and unit commands, all officers and men, will carry out their mission to the last man if necessary, of expelling U.S. imperialism out of our country."

About 3,000 militant workers gathered in a Manila city square as speakers denounced the bases. "Americans must be driven

away," Crispin Beltran, chairman of the May First Movement, a labour federation, told the crowd. "And those who refuse must be buried here."

About 500 police had been stationed at the Central Bank building Monday in anticipation of protests. Police broke up a picket by about 30 leftists near the site and two protesters were arrested.

During his opening statement, Armitage said the bases serve to guarantee stability in the Far East, but that the United States would leave if Filipinos wanted the installations closed.

"If you ask us to leave, leave we shall, as expeditiously as possible and with our pride fully intact," Armitage said. "If we do not truly believe that there exists a compelling mutual interest between the Philippines and the United States, then we have precious little to discuss other than the terms of an amicable separation."

Pope wraps up 47th foreign tour

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao (AP) — Pope John Paul II, wrapping up his 47th foreign trip, told residents of this Dutch Caribbean island to set a Christian example to the thousands of tourists who visit every year.

The Pontiff stopped in Curacao, about 50 kilometres north of Venezuela, Sunday on his way back to Rome after an eight-day, 10-city tour of Mexico.

Celebrating mass in a sports stadium, Pope John Paul struck familiar themes, speaking out against divorce, cohabitation and

abortion. He also warned against materialism, saying: "The person, the family and the society will not be fully human if they limit their aspirations just to possessing, consuming and enjoying."

Curacao, an island of 147,000 inhabitants with a thriving tourist industry, is the most populous of the five islands of the Netherlands Antilles and has one of the highest standards of living in the Caribbean.

Several Latin American clerics, including Cardinal Miguel Oban-

do Y Bravo of Nicaragua, travelled to Curacao to celebrate mass with the Pope.

The stadium, with a capacity of 20,000, was about half full. Behind the altar was a yellow backdrop representing the gabled colonial buildings of downtown Willemstad.

The Pope received a warm welcome at the airport in the overwhelmingly Catholic island. A group of schoolgirls in white blouses and blue skirts sang Calypso music and shook pom-poms of yellow and white, the Vatican's colours.

Bomb attack angers Colombians of working class neighbourhood

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The rubble from a car-bombing has been cleared from a working-class neighbourhood, leaving behind grief and anger among residents, some of whom blame drug traffickers and the United States for the violence plaguing their country.

Fifteen people were killed in Saturday's car-bomb attack in the Quirigua neighbourhood, and two other car bombings elsewhere killed an additional seven people and left a total of about 200 wounded.

Stunned residents of Quirigua could not understand why their neighbourhood had suddenly become a target.

"It's an evil group of people who would attack poor people for no reason," said Luis Benavides, a glass worker whose small two-storey house was severely damaged by the bomb.

"How can we try to understand such madness? Whoever they are, they are attacking our families and our children in the middle of the street," said Benavides, who shares the house with several of his 11 children and 12 grandchildren.

Authorities blamed drug traffickers for the attacks, which accounted for the highest death toll this year for a single day of carnage in the nation's drug war, police said.

Two of the attacks came in the capital of Bogota — in Quirigua and the upper-middle-class neigh-

bourhood of Niza — and the third in the southern city of Cali. Two people died in Niza and 10 were killed in the Cali attack.

On Sunday, scores of police officers stood guard in Quirigua against looters as hundreds of onlookers stood behind ropes police used to cordon off the bomb scene.

Martha Lucia Sanchez, a 19-year-old student and neighbour of Benavides, said the bomb exploded when the streets were full of people shopping for Mother's Day.

"The terrorists did not just want to cause damage to property," she said. "They wanted to kill as many of the innocent as they could. They were very determined."

Benavides' 26-year-old son, Jose Luis, said he was standing by a front window of his family's home when the bomb exploded, shattering the glass.

On Sunday, the son was still dazed and wore a blood-stained bandage around his head. Jose Luis said he didn't want to stay in a damaged house without windows, but had no choice.

"If we don't stay here we will be robbed," he said.

His wife, Carmen Rosa, cried as she told how the family was planning to celebrate its 18th anniversary of living in the house at the end of May.

Colombia's main opposition presidential candidates Sunday said it was unfair that innocent

Colombians were killed in the war on drugs and the entire world should be held responsible for the drug problem.

Rodrigo Lloreda and Alvaro Gomez, both centre-right candidates in May 27 presidential elections, said Colombians were paying too high a price for mistaken drug policies both here and in industrialised countries.

"We are suffering the consequences of a war in which we Colombians are providing the dead and consuming countries are providing applause and resolutions of sympathy," Lloreda said in a statement.

He added that the Colombian government should have acted on an earlier offer by drug traffickers to lay down their arms and quit the cocaine trade in return for legal guarantees.

"We lost an opportunity that would have saved many, many lives," Lloreda said.

Barco rejected the drug lords' January truce offer, saying his government would not negotiate with criminals.

Both candidates said the war on drugs must be an international, not just a Colombian, effort.

"The idea that our country should keep paying the costs of a war that can't be won is intolerable," Gomez said.

Cesar Gaviria, ruling Liberal Party candidate and favourite to win the elections, has said he would continue the current government's anti-drug crackdown.

De Klerk gets top-level welcome in Portugal

LISBON (R) — South African President F.W. de Klerk arrived in Portugal Monday to the warmest reception yet of his 13-day European tour — a personal welcome at Lisbon airport from Pres-

ident Mario Soares. De Klerk, seeking European Community (EC) support for his plans for negotiated reform of apartheid, received cooler treatment in France and Greece.

Lukanov — most respected politician in Bulgaria

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Whatever the outcome of next month's first multi-party elections in Bulgaria, one former Communist is almost certain to stay in power: Premier Andrei Lukanov.

Analysts concur that Lukanov, 51, a multi-lingual reformer and experienced administrator, is by far the most respected and capable politician to steer the nation out of its economic, political and moral crisis.

"He is the best man Bulgaria has at present. The opposition has no one to match him in popularity and experience," said one Bulgarian journalist, who asked for anonymity.

That also appears to be the prevailing opinion in the leadership of the Union of Democratic Forces, an alliance of 16 opposition groups and parties, whose fate after the elections is uncertain.

"He is an intelligent man," said Petko Simeonov, who leads the opposition's election campaign. "Why not work with him?"

Lukanov said he would be prepared to head a government even if his party, now called the Socialist Party, were defeated in the elections.

"At this moment at least it looks as though the Socialist Party would emerge as the strongest political force" from the June 10 and June 17 polls, he told the Associated Press in a wide-ranging, 70-minute interview.

"My own decision will be determined entirely by the interests of the country and the (party's) policy line," he said.

Together with then Foreign Minister Petar Mladenov, now state president, and Defence Minister Dobri Dzhurov, Lukanov is widely credited with having helped oust former strongman Todor Zhivkov, who ruled this Balkan nation of 8.9 million for some 35 years.

Lukanov later headed the Communist Party delegation to talks with the opposition on a timetable for free elections. As government head now, he is removed from the infighting that threatens to split his party after the voting.

While the opposition predicts a clear defeat for the former Communists, Lukanov claimed his party, with a membership of close to 1 million, is picking up support.

But he emphasised repeatedly that a broad-based coalition is the only way to govern Bulgaria for an 18-month transition period in which a new constitution and other key laws will be enacted.

Lukanov, a good friend of West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher and a statesman who speaks fluent French, English, Spanish and Russian, is the number one vote-getter.

It is an unusual distinction in a region that is rejecting communism and its top representatives.

But in Bulgaria, as in Romania, former Communists have a much greater pull than in the central European nations of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, where long-time dissidents were more easily able to take over the reins of power.

Like Ion Iliescu in Romania, Lukanov is Soviet-trained. Born in Moscow, the son of prominent Bulgarian Communists, Lukanov learned his statecraft at the Soviets' prestigious Institute of International Relations.

He will need all his skills to ease Bulgaria's crisis. Last month, the nation stopped principal repayments on its \$10-billion debt. Production is falling, and consumer shortages of staples such as sugar, meat and gasoline are growing.

Lukanov said recent talks in Sofia, Brussels and Bonn gave him hope Bulgaria can overcome pressing financial problems in about three years.

He said resolute economic reform should include privatising industry and particularly farming in this traditionally agrarian nation, increasing exports and cutting state subsidies.

"We could easily boost production by 25 per cent," Lukanov asserted.

Discussing the 35-year rule of Zhivkov, who now awaits trial on charges of abusing his power, Lukanov agreed that the ousted leader could not be blamed for all Bulgaria's current ills.

"What we are reforming is not one person's activity, but a system which should be abolished, a system which has not essentially changed — Stalinism in a disguised form, in a slightly modified and less repressive form," he said.

Crowds mob premier outside Bucharest

IASI, Romania (AP) — Few Romanians knew who Petre Roman was before the December revolution. Now tens of thousands mob him like a rock star on his swings around the country campaigning for the May 20 elections.

Thousands of people protest daily in Bucharest and some other cities, accusing the governing National Salvation Front (NSF) of planning to install a new Communist government. The front took over when dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed.

In the towns and countryside, the government and its leaders are much more popular.

At Birlad, 260 kilometres northeast of Bucharest, the crowd of 20,000 pressed so close that Roman ordered his driver to speed away. His spokesman was spreadeagled on the back of the vehicle, desperately clutching the antenna. After the campaign tour last week, the 43-year-old premier predicted the front would win Romania's first free elections in 50 years.

He, Interim President Ion Iliescu and many other front members are former officials of the Ceausescu government who fell out with the dictator. Roman said in an interview that critics were "partly justified" in suspecting them of being "neo-Communists."

"We lived 50 years under dictatorship, so the suspicion for some of them may be sincere," the premier said in an interview about his campaign plane.

Opposition claims that the front seeks to restore Marxist-style government should not be taken seriously, he said.

"If you assume that the 4 million members of the party were really Communists, you are wrong," Roman said of Communist Party membership under Ceausescu. "Many even at the middle level were in reality fighting to preserve human rights, at risk to themselves."

International attention has focused on mass protest against the front and Roman's government that began on April 22 in downtown Bucharest, and on opposition accusations that the front is using unfair tactics in the campaign.

The United States recalled its ambassador for consultations on May 10.

At times, 10,000 people have been involved in the Bucharest protest. Similar demonstrations have been reported in Brasov, Romania's second-largest city, and Timisoara, where the uprising against Ceausescu began.

Roman, a professor of hydraulic engineering before the revolution, said he expects the front to win a majority in the new parliament and Iliescu to be chosen as president.

Tens of thousands of people have attended campaign rallies for the two men outside Bucharest, chanting slogans for the front.

COLUMN

India to cleanse film industry of sex

NEW DELHI (R) — India, which has the world's biggest film industry churning out more than 700 films a year without a single kiss or bare breast, is to purge its cinema of sex and violence. Information and Broadcasting Minister Parvathathi Uppendra said in the south Indian city of Madras he had told censors to make drastic cuts of vulgar sex or gory violence. Indian films are conservative by Western standards. Nudity, and even kissing, are banned — although rape scenes are a common ingredient in its frequently blood-spattered movies. Huge posters promise "hot scenes". Packed cinemas often become half empty after such scenes are over. "Scenes glorifying sex and violence have crossed the limits of decency," Uppendra said while distributing movie awards at Madras which, with Bombay, is the industry's main centre. He said it was becoming increasingly difficult for families to sit through many films because of violent and sexually implicit scenes.

Film on Japanese internment debuts at Cannes

CANNES (AP) — Alan Parker's testament to the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, *Come See the Paradise*, premiered to thunderous applause Sunday at the 43rd Cannes Film Festival. The film, one of 19 competing for the coveted Golden Palm Award, marked a departure from violence for the British-born director, whose previous works include *Mississippi Burning* and *Midnight Express*. "I'm always being reproached for showing violence," Parker said at a press conference. "But this is the way I understood it happened. The Japanese weren't tortured, but crushed." The 170 journalists at the screening heartily applauded the 20th Century Fox production as the credits rolled at the festival palace. Director Idrissa Ouedraogo of Burkina Faso meanwhile won the first prize for an African film in a new category, *Africa in Creation-Cinema*, for his film *Tilai*. The film on love and tradition in an African village will be screened as a Golden Palm contender this week.

Rourke, girlfriend sue producers for releasing nude photos

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mickey Rourke has joined Carre Otis, his girlfriend and co-star in the steamy *Wild Orchid*, in suing the film's producers for releasing nude pictures to Playboy magazine. The photos depict the couple's torrid sex scene. The lawsuit alleges the producers did not get Rourke's approval before releasing the photos "for use in tawdry sex pictorials for financial gain and in order to obtain publicity for the film." The lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages, said the photos have hurt Rourke's reputation in the industry. Nude photos taken during filming of *Wild Orchid* appear in the June issue of Playboy and the April edition of the German magazine *Kino*. The lawsuit names Kruger-Brent Group Inc., Brazil Star Films, Vision P.D.G. and Vision International. Miss Otis filed a similar lawsuit last week.

Comedy show prompts viewers to contribute

NEW YORK (AP) — A parade of comedians, actors and high-kicking rockettes prompted cable television viewers and others Saturday to pledge at least \$1.2 million to help the homeless. "Comic Relief '90," telecast by HBO, was staged at Radio City Music Hall, the first of the four specials to originate from New York. The previous three shows, all held in Los Angeles, raised more than \$8.7 million. The \$1.2 million subtotal was announced about two hours after the programme started at 8 p.m. (0000 GMT). Home Box Office, a pay channel, lifted the scrambling it normally puts over its signal so affiliates could carry the show to basic cable subscribers. Comedians Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg and Robin Williams were hosts of the event, opening the show with impersonations that poked fun at some of New York's celebrities. After taking a few steps with the rockettes, Crystal and Williams — in a rickety costume — asked viewers to contribute by calling a toll-free telephone number.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.